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52 BIG PAGES
JUNE - JULY
NO. 71
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
BATMAN
BAT MAN
Featuring
"The JAIL for HEROES!"
HA, HA, HA! PLAY IT SMART, COPPERS, AN' MAYBE I'LL GIVE YOU TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR!
SERGEANT HANSO
AND OFFICER O'HA
SHERIFF HUNTER AND STATE TROOPER GREEN
BATMAN AND ROBIN

SUPERMAN says: "Hop on the WELFARE WAGON!"

SAY, MR. STANTON, I HEAR SUPERMAN'S GOING TO SPEAK FOR OUR HOSPITAL FUND DRIVE.
BAH! WHO NEEDS A HOSPITAL IN THIS TOWN? I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! I'M NOT GIVING A RED CENT, SUPERMAN OR NO SUPERMAN!
DID I HEAR MY NAME MENTIONED?
HOSPITAL FUND DRIVE
I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG SLANT, MR. STANTON--AND YOU'RE LIABLE TO GIVE OTHERS THE WRONG ONE, TOO!

SINCE THE DAYS OF THE FIRST SETTLERS, AMERICANS HAVE HELPED EACH OTHER WHEN SICKNESS AND TROUBLE CAME. TODAY WE HELP, THROUGH TAXES AND CONTRIBUTIONS, TO SUPPORT HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITIES, SO THAT ANYONE, RICH OR POOR, CAN HAVE THEM AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME.
"A HOSPITAL OFFERS PEOPLE THE ADVANTAGES OF MODERN SCIENCE, THROUGH ITS DOCTORS, NURSES AND OTHER TRAINED EXPERTS..."

"HEALTH DEPARTMENT LABORATORIES PROVIDE TESTS TO AID IN DIAGNOSIS. IF IT'S A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE, SPECIALISTS WILL GO INTO ACTION TO PREVENT ITS SPREADING TO OTHER FAMILIES..."
"MANY COMMUNITIES HAVE VISITING NURSE SERVICES IN TIME OF NEED, AND FAMILY SERVICE AGENCIES AND OTHER SOCIAL WORKERS ARE AVAILABLE WHEN OTHER PROBLEMS ARISE..."
ALL THESE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES HELP TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY -- AND THAT MEANS YOUR WELFARE, TOO!

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BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

YOU ARE NOW ABOUT TO ENTER A *NEW KIND OF PRISON*—A PRISON IN WHICH *CHAMPIONS OF LAW* ARE BEHIND BARS AND *CRIMINALS* ARE THEIR JAILERS! ONLY THE TOP LAWMEN IN THE LAND INHABIT THE CELLS OF THIS PENITENTIARY, WHOSE WARDEN IS A CZAR OF CRIME.' IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY? NO SUCH PLACE EXISTS? PERHAPS YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU SEE HOW *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* THEMSELVES BECOME INMATES, DESTINED TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES IN...

"THE JAIL for HEROES!"

by BOB KANE

No.9734 No. 9734
JOE PEARSON
PRIVATE EYE

No. 2455 No. 2455
PATROLMAN
JOHN ARNOLD

No. 2711 No 2711
PATROLMAN
GEORGE GRILL

No. 1866 No. 1866
SERGEANT
J. O'CONNER

No. 6594 No. 6594
CAPTAIN
DANNY REEVES

No. 1217 No. 1217
DETECTIVE LYONS

MAKE IT SNAPPY, BRONSON! I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO GET *BATMAN'S* PICTURE IN MY ROGUES' GALLERY.'

No. 5113 BATMAN

RIGHT, WARDEN!

ON A DESOLATE STRETCH OF MARSHLAND NEAR GOTHAM CITY, A GIANT, WALLED STRUCTURE LOOMS FROM THE WHIRLING MISTS...

BUT WHAT SORT OF GRIM SHADOWS DOES THE LIGHT FROM ITS WINDOWS CAST? AND WHO ARE THESE FIGURES ATOP ITS WALL--CARRYING TOMMYGUNS? INDEED, THE WINDOWS ARE *BARRED*--AND THE MEN ON THE WALL ARE *ARMED GUARDS!*

FOR THIS IS A PRISON--AND BEHIND ITS FORBIDDING WALLS, THE BUSINESS OF THE NIGHTLY LOCK-UP IS BEING PERFORMED...

HERE!

HERE!

BLAKE HANSON--
JEFF HUNTER--
HOWARD GREEN...

HERE!

BATMAN! ROBIN!

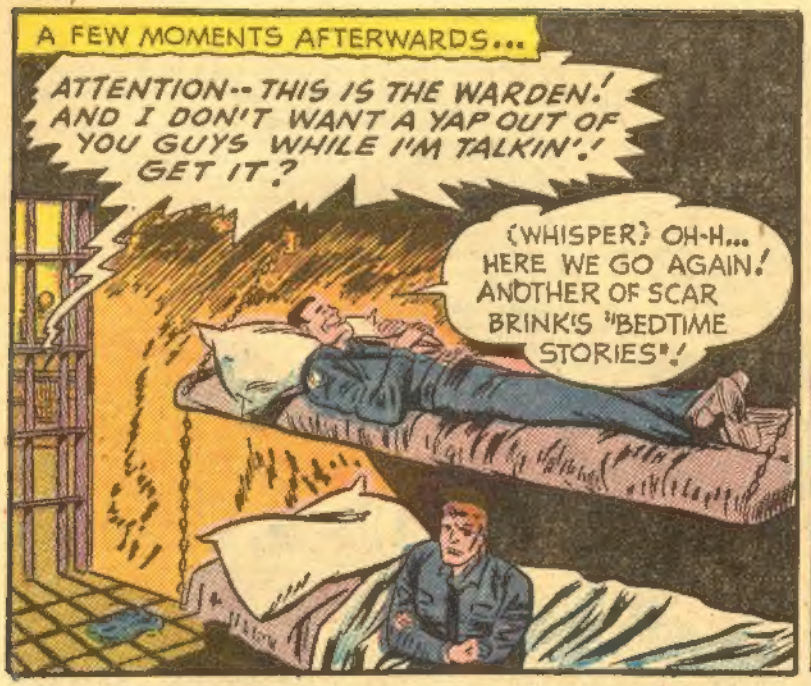
HERE!

HERE!

THEN, THE ROLL CALL OVER, THE GRINDING SOUND OF METAL ON METAL SIGNALS THE END OF A PRISON DAY...

CLANG

BUT WHAT SORT OF PRISON IS THIS? AND [illegible]Y ARE THESE FAMED DEFENDERS OF THE LAW, [illegible]TMAN AND *ROBIN*, BEHIND ITS IMPENETRABLE [illegible]RS?

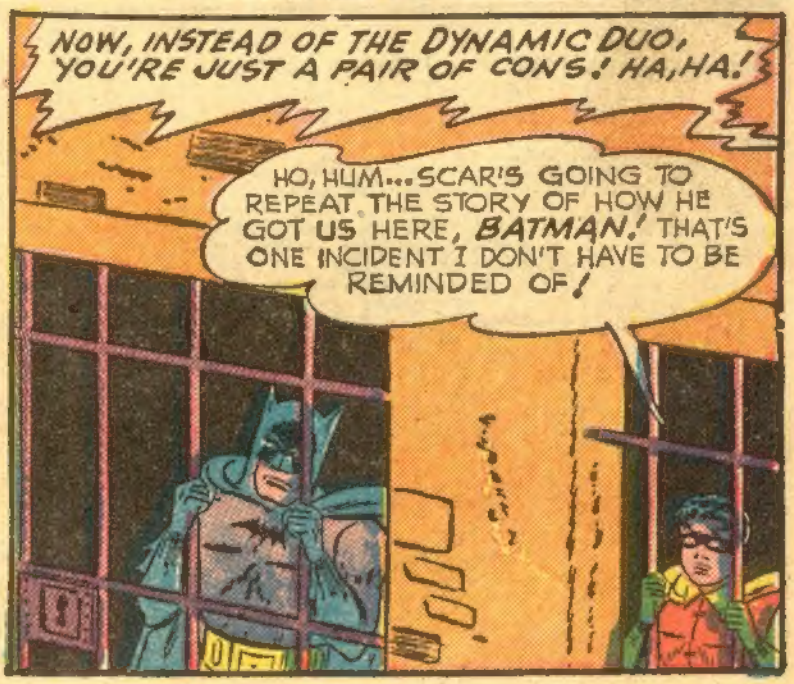

A FEW MOMENTS AFTERWARDS...
ATTENTION--THIS IS THE WARDEN! AND I DON'T WANT A YAP OUT OF YOU GUYS WHILE I'M TALKIN'! GET IT?
(WHISPER) OH-H... HERE WE GO AGAIN! ANOTHER OF SCAR BRINK'S "BEDTIME STORIES"!

ALL YOU GUYS WERE ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW... YOU THOUGHT YOU'D PUT ME, SCAR BRINK, BEHIND BARS! WELL, LOOK WHAT IT GOT YOU! NOW, YOU'RE IN JAIL-- AND I'M THE WARDEN! HA, HA!
HA, HA...YOU TELL 'EM, SCAR!
WARDEN'S OFFICE

YOU, SHERIFF JEFF HUNTER, RISKED YOUR LIFE TO STOP WHAT YOU THOUGHT WERE BANK ROBBERS! YOU SAP... IT TURNED OUT TO BE A TRAP TO GET YOU HERE WITH ALL MY OTHER LAWMEN!

AND THE ACE SHARPSHOOTER OF THE DALE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, SERGEANT HANSON! YOU ENDED UP JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER COPS WHO TRIED TO GET ME... BEHIND BARS!

BUT THE PRIZE INMATES OF MY PRIVATE PRISON ARE A COUPLE OF BIRDS THAT NOBODY BELIEVED I COULD CAGE! BUT I GOT YOU, DIDN'T I, BATMAN AND ROBIN!?
3


NOW, INSTEAD OF THE DYNAMIC DUO, YOU'RE JUST A PAIR OF CONS! HA, HA!
HO, HUM...SCAR'S GOING TO REPEAT THE STORY OF HOW HE GOT US HERE, BATMAN! THAT'S ONE INCIDENT I DON'T HAVE TO BE REMINDED OF!

"IT ALL BEGAN WHEN WE WERE RELAXING AT HOME, ONE NIGHT, IN OUR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES AS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON..."
OH-OH...THERE'S THE BAT-SIGNAL, DICK! I GUESS THAT ENDS OUR QUIET EVENING AT HOME!
RIGHT, BRUCE... BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS GETTING KIND OF RESTLESS! I'LL BE GLAD TO SEE SOME ACTION, TONIGHT!
"INSTANTLY, WE DONNED OUR CRIME-FIGHTING COSTUMES-- BUT WHEN WE REACHED WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE SCENE OF THE CRIME..."
NONE OF THE MONEY IN THIS ARMORED CAR SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN...(COUGH) ...TOUCHED... I WONDER...(COUGH)...
SSSSS
ROBIN! GAS! IT'S... IT'S ALREADY GETTING ME! THE... DOORS ...(COUGH)... THEY'RE CLOSING! W-WE'RE TRAPPED!
"LATER, WHEN WE REVIVED..."
SO BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE JOINING OUR SELECT GROUP OF PRISONERS, EH? BEFORE WE ASSIGN 'EM A CELL, LET'S FIND OUT WHO'S REALLY BEHIND THOSE MASKS!
STOP! YOU FOOL! DO YOU WANT TO RUIN ALL MY PLANS?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SCAR? I WAS JUST...
QUIET! THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN A COUPLE OF ATTEMPTED BREAKS FROM THIS PEN! BUT NOW, WE CAN THREATEN TO UNMASK BATMAN IF ANYONE MAKES A BREAK! GET IT?... OUR INMATES WOULD RATHER STAY HERE FOREVER THAN REVEAL BATMAN'S TRUE IDENTITY!
SO WE'RE THE REASON THERE'S BEEN NO ESCAPE ATTEMPT! BUT THERE'S NO USE CRYING OVER SPILT MILK-- EVEN THOUGH SCAR DOES REMIND US OF IT EVERY NIGHT!
AND THAT'S HOW THE GREAT BATMAN AND ROBIN BECAME MY PRISONERS!
THESE LITTLE "PEP TALKS" EVERY NIGHT KEEP THE PRISONERS REMINDED THAT THEY HAVEN'T A CHANCE AGAINST ME! WELL, NINE O'CLOCK... LIGHTS OUT!
CLICK!
GEE... EVERYTHING ON SCHEDULE-- JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS IN ALCATRAZ!
4

AND PRESENTLY, IN THE DARK CELL BLOCK...

(WHISPER) WHAT A SPOT WE'RE IN! IF WE ARRANGE FOR ONE OF THE OTHER PRISONERS TO ESCAPE, OUR IDENTITY WILL BE REVEALED! AND IF WE ESCAPE, SCAR WILL MURDER THE OTHER PRISONERS!

SCAR SURE PICKED A GOOD SPOT FOR HIS JAIL... NOBODY EVER COMES INTO THE MARSH WHICH SURROUNDS THIS PLACE!

QUIET, YOU TWO! YOU'LL NEED ALL THE REST YOU CAN GET FOR YOUR WORK IN THE PRISON WORKSHOP TOMORROW!

AND NEXT DAY, AS THE "CONVICTS" BEGIN A LONG DAY OF TOIL IN THE STRANGE PRISON'S WORKSHOP...

I WANT LAST WEEK'S PRODUCTION DOUBLED! THERE'S A TERRIFIC DEMAND FOR THESE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FROM GANGS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!

RIGHT, WARDEN! HA, HA...YOU SURE HAD A CLEVER SCHEME, MAKIN' THESE LAWMEN PRISONERS! WITH NO SALARIES TO PAY, THE TAKE FROM THE LICENSE PLATES IS ALL PROFIT!

AND IT'S NO WONDER CROOKS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE BUYIN' MY INVENTION! WHEN SOMEBODY GETS THE LICENSE NUMBER OF THEIR GETAWAY CAR, THEY JUST PULL THIS LITTLE KNOB AND--FLIP... THEY SWITCH PLATES WITHOUT EVEN SLOWIN' DOWN!

AND WE SUPPLY A COMPLETE SET OF 48 PLATES WITH EACH SWITCHER!

SIDE VIEW

NEW PLATES

FRONT VIEW

JX-637

OLD PLATE FLIPPING OVER

OLD PLATE MOVES BACK ALONG TRACK AND IS PICKED UP AND PUT BACK IN RACK WITH OTHER PLATES

NEW PLATE REVEALED

OLD PLATE FLIPPING

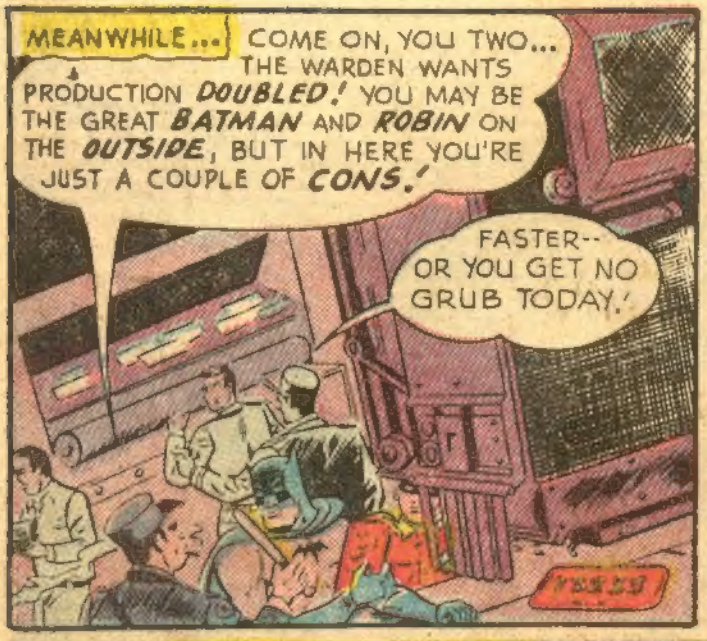
THEN, AS THE "WARDEN" TOURS HIS WORKSHOP...

WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T LIEUTENANT ARNOLD! YOU ARRESTED ME ON MY FIRST HOLD-UP! I SWORE THEN I'D GET EVEN--REMEMBER?

IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE, SCAR...

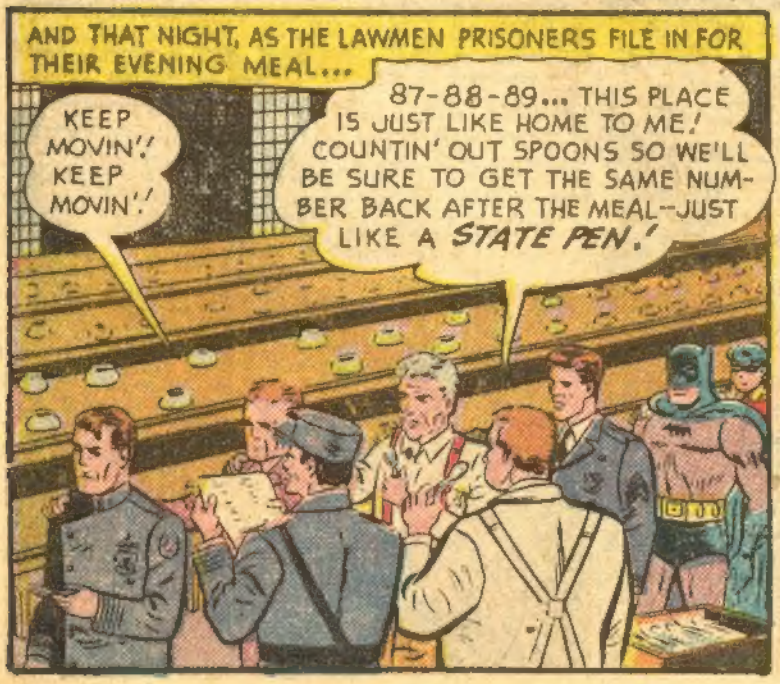
WHACK

HA HA HA


MEANWHILE...
COME ON, YOU TWO... THE WARDEN WANTS PRODUCTION DOUBLED! YOU MAY BE THE GREAT BATMAN AND ROBIN ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT IN HERE YOU'RE JUST A COUPLE OF CONS!
FASTER-- OR YOU GET NO GRUB TODAY!

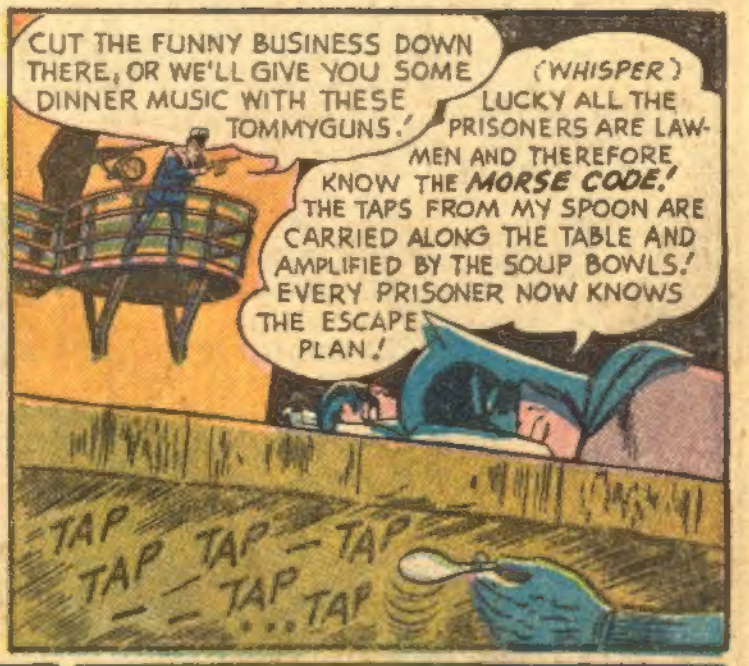
DOUBLE WORK OR YOU CONS DON'T EAT... THAT'S THE WARDEN'S ORDERS!
(WHISPER) THE MEN ARE ALREADY OVERWORKED, ROBIN... THIS NEW ORDER MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR SOME OF THEM! IT'S TIME WE TOOK ACTION! I'M ORGANIZING A MASS BREAK!

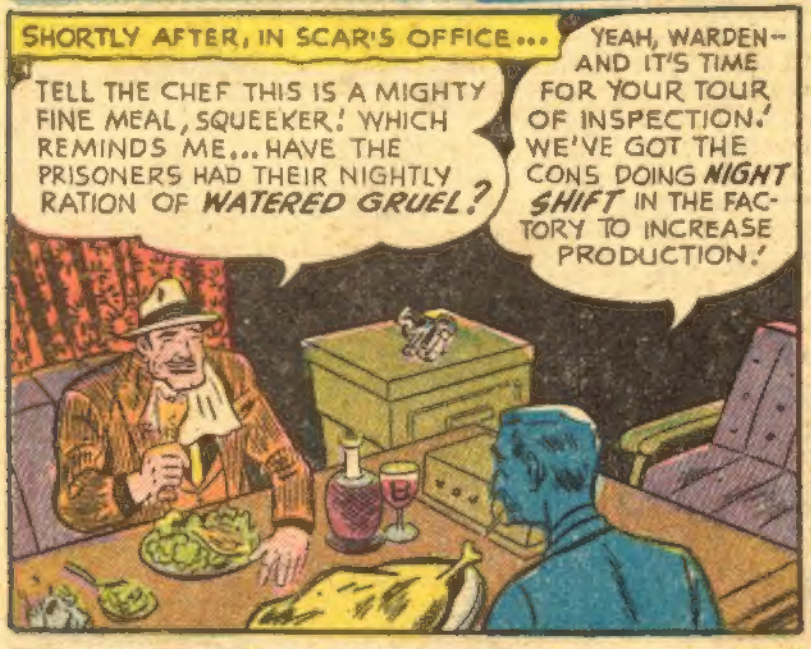
SOON, A SECRET MESSAGE MAKES ITS WAY ALONG THE PRISON GRAPEVINE...
MESSAGE
AT MESS TONIGHT DO AS I DO-- BATMAN
TONIGHT IN THE MESS HALL...DO AS BATMAN DOES!

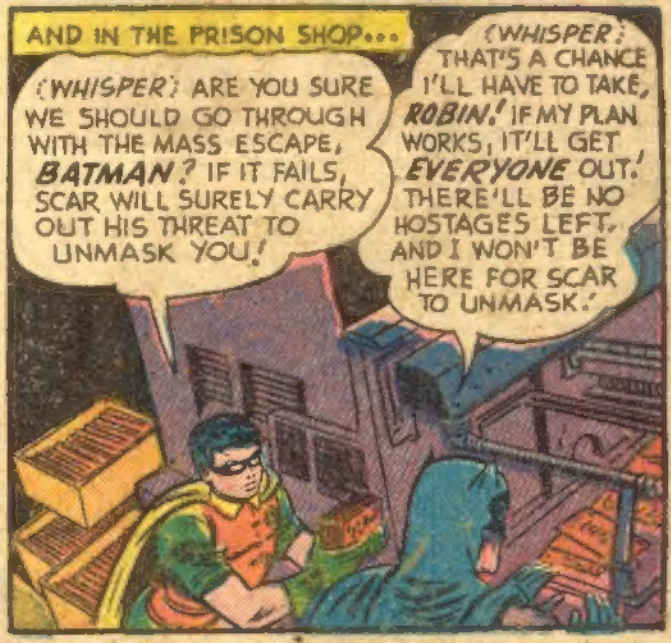

AND THAT NIGHT, AS THE LAWMEN PRISONERS FILE IN FOR THEIR EVENING MEAL...
KEEP MOVIN'! KEEP MOVIN'!
87-88-89... THIS PLACE IS JUST LIKE HOME TO ME! COUNTIN' OUT SPOONS SO WE'LL BE SURE TO GET THE SAME NUMBER BACK AFTER THE MEAL--JUST LIKE A STATE PEN!

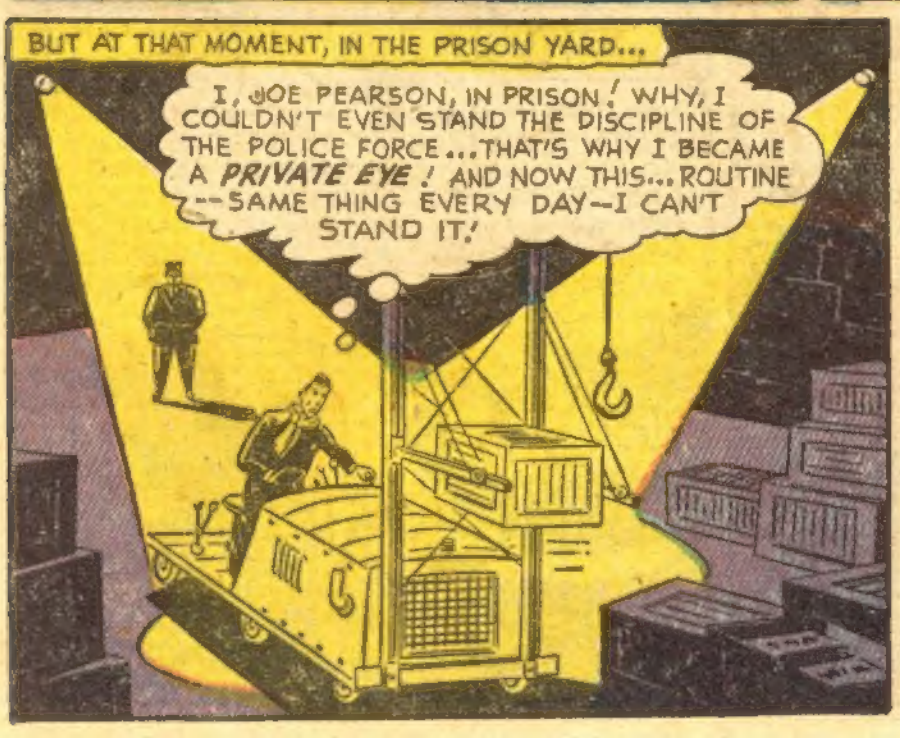
THESE COPS THOUGHT THEY WERE PRETTY SMART ON THE OUTSIDE... THOUGHT THEY HAD IT ALL OVER US CROOKS! BUT THEY AIN'T GOT A CHANCE NOW!
NAW! WE GOT THE GUNS AND THEY GOT NOTHIN'! THERE'S NOT EVEN ANY PEPPER ON THE TABLE, IN CASE ONE OF 'EM GETS AN IDEA TO THROW IT IN A GUARD'S FACE!

JUST THEN ...
HEY, WARDEN--WHAT'S GOIN' ON? BATMAN TURNED HIS SOUP PLATE UP-SIDE DOWN AND LAID HIS HEAD ON IT... AND ALL THE OTHER CONS ARE DOIN' THE SAME!
WHATEVER THEY'RE UP TO, THE GUARDS IN THE BALCONY WILL STOP IT.'


CUT THE FUNNY BUSINESS DOWN THERE, OR WE'LL GIVE YOU SOME DINNER MUSIC WITH THESE TOMMYGUNS.'
(WHISPER) LUCKY ALL THE PRISONERS ARE LAW-MEN AND THEREFORE KNOW THE MORSE CODE.' THE TAPS FROM MY SPOON ARE CARRIED ALONG THE TABLE AND AMPLIFIED BY THE SOUP BOWLS.' EVERY PRISONER NOW KNOWS THE ESCAPE PLAN!
TAP TAP TAP — TAP — — TAP ...TAP


SHORTLY AFTER, IN SCAR'S OFFICE...
TELL THE CHEF THIS IS A MIGHTY FINE MEAL, SQUEEKER.' WHICH REMINDS ME... HAVE THE PRISONERS HAD THEIR NIGHTLY RATION OF WATERED GRUEL?
YEAH, WARDEN--AND IT'S TIME FOR YOUR TOUR OF INSPECTION.' WE'VE GOT THE CONS DOING NIGHT SHIFT IN THE FACTORY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION.'


AND IN THE PRISON SHOP...
(WHISPER) ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD GO THROUGH WITH THE MASS ESCAPE, BATMAN? IF IT FAILS, SCAR WILL SURELY CARRY OUT HIS THREAT TO UNMASK YOU!
(WHISPER) THAT'S A CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE, ROBIN.' IF MY PLAN WORKS, IT'LL GET EVERYONE OUT.' THERE'LL BE NO HOSTAGES LEFT, AND I WON'T BE HERE FOR SCAR TO UNMASK.'


BUT AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE PRISON YARD...
I, JOE PEARSON, IN PRISON! WHY, I COULDN'T EVEN STAND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE POLICE FORCE... THAT'S WHY I BECAME A PRIVATE EYE! AND NOW THIS... ROUTINE --SAME THING EVERY DAY--I CAN'T STAND IT.'

BATMAN'S PLAN FOR A MASS BREAK WILL NEVER WORK! I MUST GO IT ALONE! BUT IF I ESCAPE, SCAR WILL REVEAL BATMAN'S IDENTITY--BUT WHAT CAN I DO! I MUST GET OUT! IF I STAY, I'LL GO STIR CRAZY!

MOMENTS LATER...
GOOD! THE GUARD HASN'T NOTICED ME! IN ANOTHER MOMENT, I'LL BE FREE!
BUZZZZZZ
WHILE IN THE PRISON SHOP...
(WHISPER) YOUR CODE INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEING FOLLOWED, BATMAN! EACH PRISONER HAS PICKED A TARGET AND IS READY TO HURL A LICENSE PLATE WHEN YOU GIVE THE SIGNAL!
YOU AND I WILL KNOCK OUT THE LIGHTS, ROBIN! READY...
BUT JUST AS THE BARRAGE OF LICENSE PLATES IS ABOUT TO BE RELEASED...
WOOOOOO AHHHHHH WOOOOO
THE PRISON SIREN! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE! TAKE YOUR STATIONS!
WH-WHAT? NOW THE GUARDS ARE ALERTED! WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP OUR PLAN!
AND IN THE PRISON YARD, THE MANHUNT BEGINS...
SLUG, YOU TAKE FOUR GUARDS AND SEARCH THE EAST MARSH! I'LL TAKE A POSSE AND HEAD FOR THE HIGHWAY!
NOW THAT THE BLOODHOUNDS HAVE THE SCENT OF HIS SCARF, THEY'LL SOON TRACK DOWN THE ESCAPED CON, WARDEN! HE'S THAT PRIVATE EYE WE JUST BROUGHT IN — JOE PEARSON!
OKAY... YOU GO AHEAD, BUGS! I'LL STAY HERE... I HAVE A LITTLE CONFERENCE WITH BATMAN SCHEDULED!
PRESENTLY...
REMEMBER MY WARNING, BATMAN? IF A PRISONER ESCAPES, I UNMASK YOU! IF PEARSON ISN'T BACK HERE BY TEN O'CLOCK, YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE REVEALED TO THE WORLD!
SO IT WAS PEARSON WHO ESCAPED! HE MUST'VE CRACKED UNDER THE STRAIN OF PRISON CONFINEMENT! EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS THE END OF MY SECRET, I CAN'T HELP HOPING HE'LL MAKE IT!
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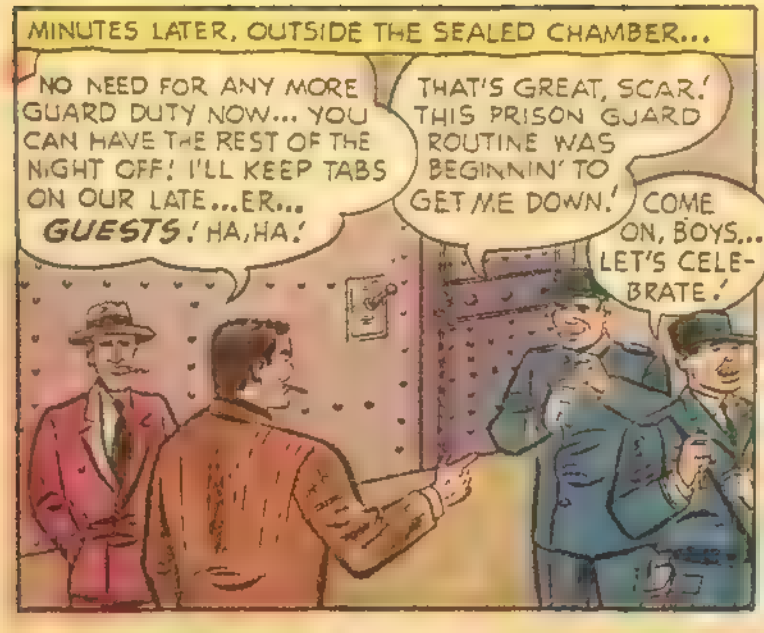
WHILE OUT ON THE FOG-DRENCHED MARSH...
OVER THIS WAY, SOCKS!
CAN'T SEE IN THIS FOG!
AH WOOOO
BARK
BARK
THEY'VE PUT BLOODHOUNDS ON MY TRAIL! BUT IF I WALK IN THIS BROOK, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO PICK UP MY SCENT!
AND AS PRECIOUS MINUTES ELAPSE...
TEN MORE MINUTES, BATMAN!
SCAR'S ABOUT TO UNMASK BATMAN, AND I'M LOCKED IN THIS CELL--HELPLESS!
THEN, MOMENTS LATER, ON THE EERIE MARSH...
THIS WAY! I HEAR SOMETHING!
NO! OVER HERE! BRING THE FLASHLIGHT!
AH WOOO
AH WOOO
MUST KEEP GO... OOOPS!
SPLASH
THAT COLD WATER... IT'S CLEARED MY HEAD! NOW I REALIZE WHAT I'VE DONE! OH, THIS IS HORRIBLE! I MUST GIVE MYSELF UP BEFORE BATMAN'S IDENTITY IS REVEALED! IF ONLY I'M NOT TOO LATE!
BUT IN THE PRISON...
DON'T DO IT, SCAR... WE WARN YOU!
SHUT UP, YOU CONS! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO ME AND YOU KNOW IT! IT'S TEN O'CLOCK --THE UNMASKING HOUR FOR YOU, BATMAN!
BOO HOO
HOLD IT WARDEN! THE ESCAPED PRISONER JUST GAVE HIMSELF UP!
JUST IN TIME TO SAVE BATMAN--BUT TOO LATE FOR YOU, PEARSON! FOR TRYING TO ESCAPE, YOU WILL DIE--IN THE PRISON GAS CHAMBER!

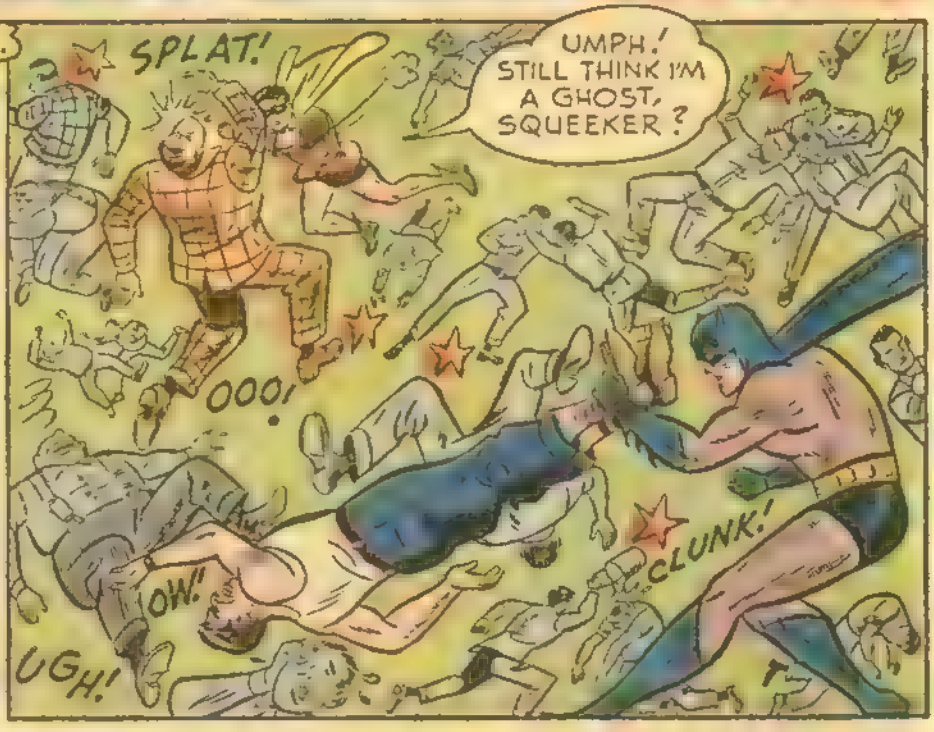
BATMAN--I'M SORRY! I WAS CRAZY WHEN I MADE THAT ESCAPE! BUT I'M GLAD I CAME TO MY SENSES AND RETURNED BEFORE YOU WERE UNMASKED! I'M GLAD--EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS THIS!
TAKE HIM AWAY! PUT HIM IN A CELL IN DEATH ROW UNTIL THE EXECUTION TOMORROW NIGHT!
YOU MISERABLE COWARD, SCAR! IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON YOU!
SO I'M A COWARD, EH? YOU USED TO SAY ON THE OUTSIDE THAT I WOULDN'T DARE FACE YOU WITHOUT A GUN! WELL, NOW WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! UNSHACKLE THE PRISONER, GUARD!
WARDEN--ARE ...ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, SQUEEKER! BATMAN THINKS I'M A COWARD, BUT I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM UP IN FRONT OF ALL HIS LAWMEN BUDDIES!
AND AS BATMAN, HIS MUSCLES STILL STIFF FROM THE BINDING ROPES, RISES TO MEET HIS ADVERSARY...
EVEN IF I CONQUER THIS GORILLA, HIS ARMED HOODLUMS WILL PUT ME BACK IN MY CELL! I MUST FIGURE SOME WAY TO SAVE PEARSON BEFORE...
OW!
UMPH!
UGH!
THUD!
HE'S PRETTY TOUGH! BUT LET'S SEE HOW HE GOES FOR THIS BODY BLOCK!
A STRANGLE HOLD! JUST LIKE YOU TO USE AN ILLEGAL HOLD, SCAR!
HAD ENOUGH, BATMAN?
10

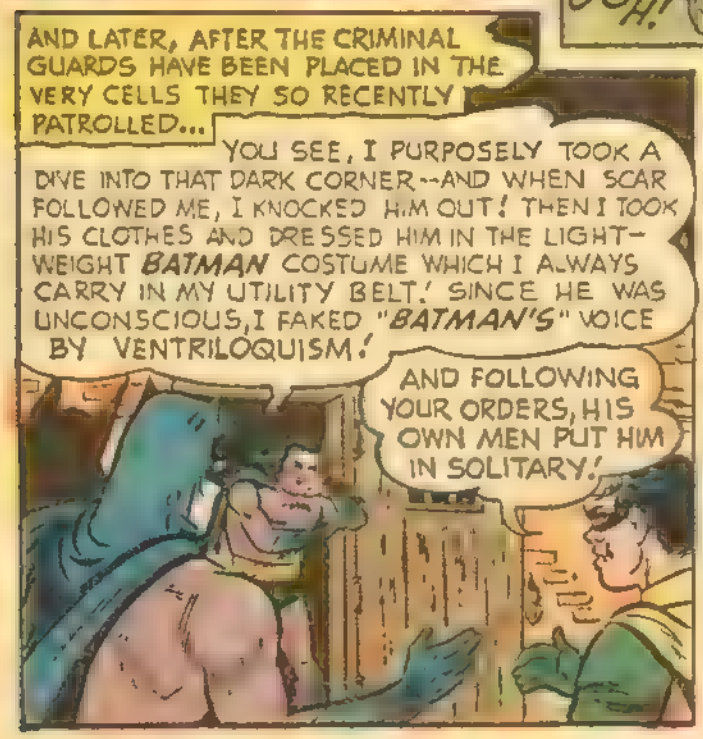
AND IN ONE OF THE PRISON CELLS, A TENSE OBSERVER SHARES EVERY BLOW WITH THE BATTLING LAWMAN...
SCAR IS GIVING HIM A TERRIBLE BEATING! BATMAN'S TAKING SO MUCH PUNISHMENT! IF ONLY HE'D GIVE UP... BUT THAT'S ONE THING BATMAN WILL NEVER DO!
BUT A MOMENT AFTER, AS THE CONTESTANT EMERGE FROM THE SHADOW OF AN OVER-HANGING CELL BLOCK...
SCAR...GASP.... STOP! I...I GIVE UP!
NO! BATMAN CALLING IT QUITS! I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HA...HA... HE PASSED OUT! ALL RIGHT, GUARDS... PUT HIM IN SOLITARY! NO MATTER HOW HE YELLS OR WHAT HE SAYS, DON'T RELEASE HIM!
BOO BOO
PEARSON IS SCHEDULED TO DIE TOMORROW NIGHT, AND BATMAN'S BEING PUT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT! THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN SAVE PEARSON NOW!
BOO BOO BOO
QUIET, UP THERE! I SAID QUIET! ALL RIGHT--MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE YOU CLOSE YOUR TRAPS! EVERY ONE OF YOU CONS GOES TO THE GAS CHAMBER WITH PEARSON TOMORROW NIGHT!
ABRUPTLY, A HUSH FALLS OVER THE CROWD OF CAGED MEN...
HEY, SCAR! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S CARRYING THINGS A BIT TOO FAR?
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR ADVICE, PUNK! I'M THE WARDEN! WHAT I SAY GOES! THEY WILL DIE!
SLOWLY, THE HOURS PASS FOR THE CONDEMNED MEN--TILL FINALLY...
COME ON, ROBIN... YOU'RE GOING TO WALK THE LAST MILE!
IF I MAKE A MOVE, I'LL BE BLASTED BY ONE OF THOSE TOMMY GUNS! WHAT CAN I DO? IF ONLY BATMAN WERE HERE, HE'D FIGURE SOMETHING!
LIKE CATTLE GOING TO SLAUGHTER, THE CREAM OF THE NATION'S LAWMEN ARE HERDED INTO A VAULTED CHAMBER TO MEET THEIR DOOM...
YOU BOYS HAVE SENT PLENTY OF MY PALS TO THE DEATH HOUSE... NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! GET IN THERE!
LOCK THE DOOR, GUARD! I'LL RELEASE THE POISON GAS MYSELF--AND IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!
GAS
RELEASE
VALVE

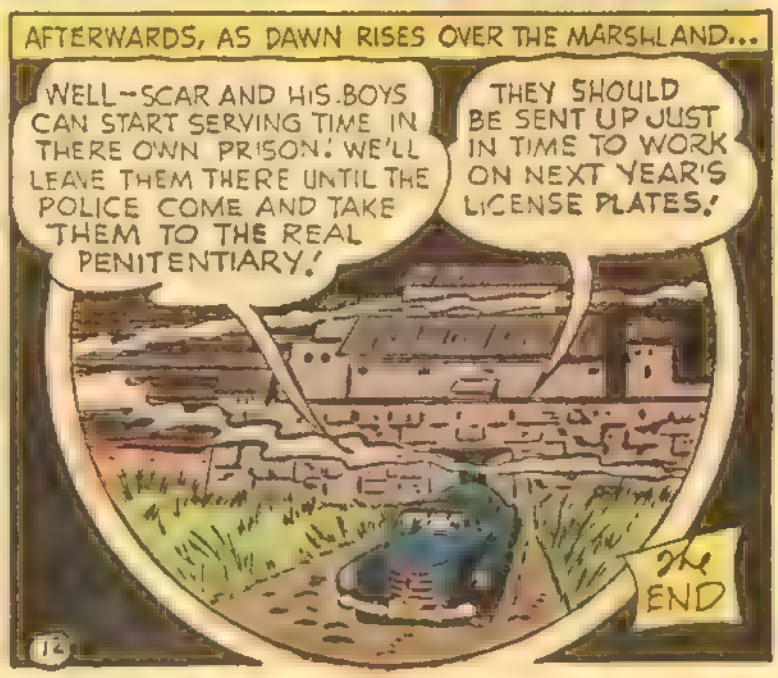

MINUTES LATER, OUTSIDE THE SEALED CHAMBER...
NO NEED FOR ANY MORE GUARD DUTY NOW... YOU CAN HAVE THE REST OF THE NIGHT OFF! I'LL KEEP TABS ON OUR LATE...ER... GUESTS! HA,HA!
THAT'S GREAT, SCAR! THIS PRISON GUARD ROUTINE WAS BEGINNIN' TO GET ME DOWN!
COME ON, BOYS... LET'S CELEBRATE!

BUT SOON...
WE'RE...WE'RE ALIVE! THERE WAS NO GAS AND... BATMAN! YOU!
BUT... BUT HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF SOLITARY?
QUIET, EVERYONE! THE GAS WAS NEVER RELEASED, BUT THE GUARDS THINK YOU'RE ALL DEAD! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO SURPRISE THEM! COME ON!

SHORTLY, IN THE GUARDS' LOCKER ROOM...
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE THE BRIGHT LIGHTS AGAIN! THIS GUARD DUTY IS ALMOST AS BAD AS BEIN' IN STIR YOURSELF!
LOOK! IT... IT'S GHOSTS! EEEAAAH!


SPLAT!
UMPH! STILL THINK I'M A GHOST, SQUEEKER?
OOO!
OW!
CLUNK!
UGH!


AND LATER, AFTER THE CRIMINAL GUARDS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE VERY CELLS THEY SO RECENTLY PATROLLED...
YOU SEE, I PURPOSELY TOOK A DIVE INTO THAT DARK CORNER--AND WHEN SCAR FOLLOWED ME, I KNOCKED HIM OUT! THEN I TOOK HIS CLOTHES AND DRESSED HIM IN THE LIGHT-WEIGHT BATMAN COSTUME WHICH I ALWAYS CARRY IN MY UTILITY BELT! SINCE HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS, I FAKED "BATMAN'S" VOICE BY VENTRILOQUISM!
AND FOLLOWING YOUR ORDERS, HIS OWN MEN PUT HIM IN SOLITARY!


AFTERWARDS, AS DAWN RISES OVER THE MARSHLAND...
WELL--SCAR AND HIS BOYS CAN START SERVING TIME IN THERE OWN PRISON! WE'LL LEAVE THEM THERE UNTIL THE POLICE COME AND TAKE THEM TO THE REAL PENITENTIARY!
THEY SHOULD BE SENT UP JUST IN TIME TO WORK ON NEXT YEAR'S LICENSE PLATES!
THE END

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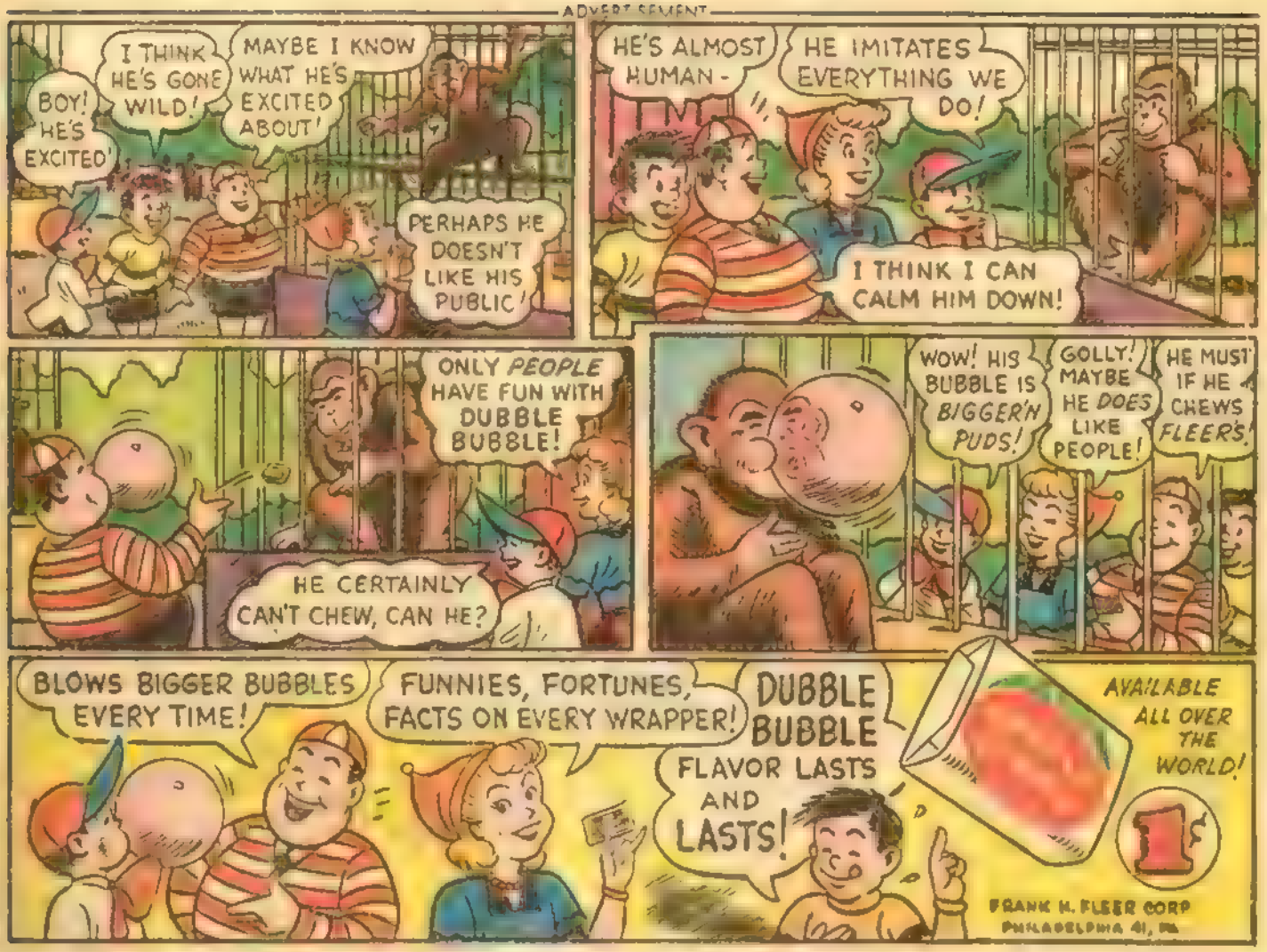
BOY! HE'S EXCITED!
I THINK HE'S GONE WILD!
MAYBE I KNOW WHAT HE'S EXCITED ABOUT!
PERHAPS HE DOESN'T LIKE HIS PUBLIC!
HE'S ALMOST HUMAN -
HE IMITATES EVERYTHING WE DO!
I THINK I CAN CALM HIM DOWN!
ONLY PEOPLE HAVE FUN WITH DUBBLE BUBBLE!
HE CERTAINLY CAN'T CHEW, CAN HE?
WOW! HIS BUBBLE IS BIGGER'N PUDS!
GOLLY! MAYBE HE DOES LIKE PEOPLE!
HE MUST IF HE CHEWS FLEER'S!
BLOWS BIGGER BUBBLES EVERY TIME!
FUNNIES, FORTUNES, FACTS ON EVERY WRAPPER!
DUBBLE BUBBLE FLAVOR LASTS AND LASTS!
AVAILABLE ALL OVER THE WORLD!
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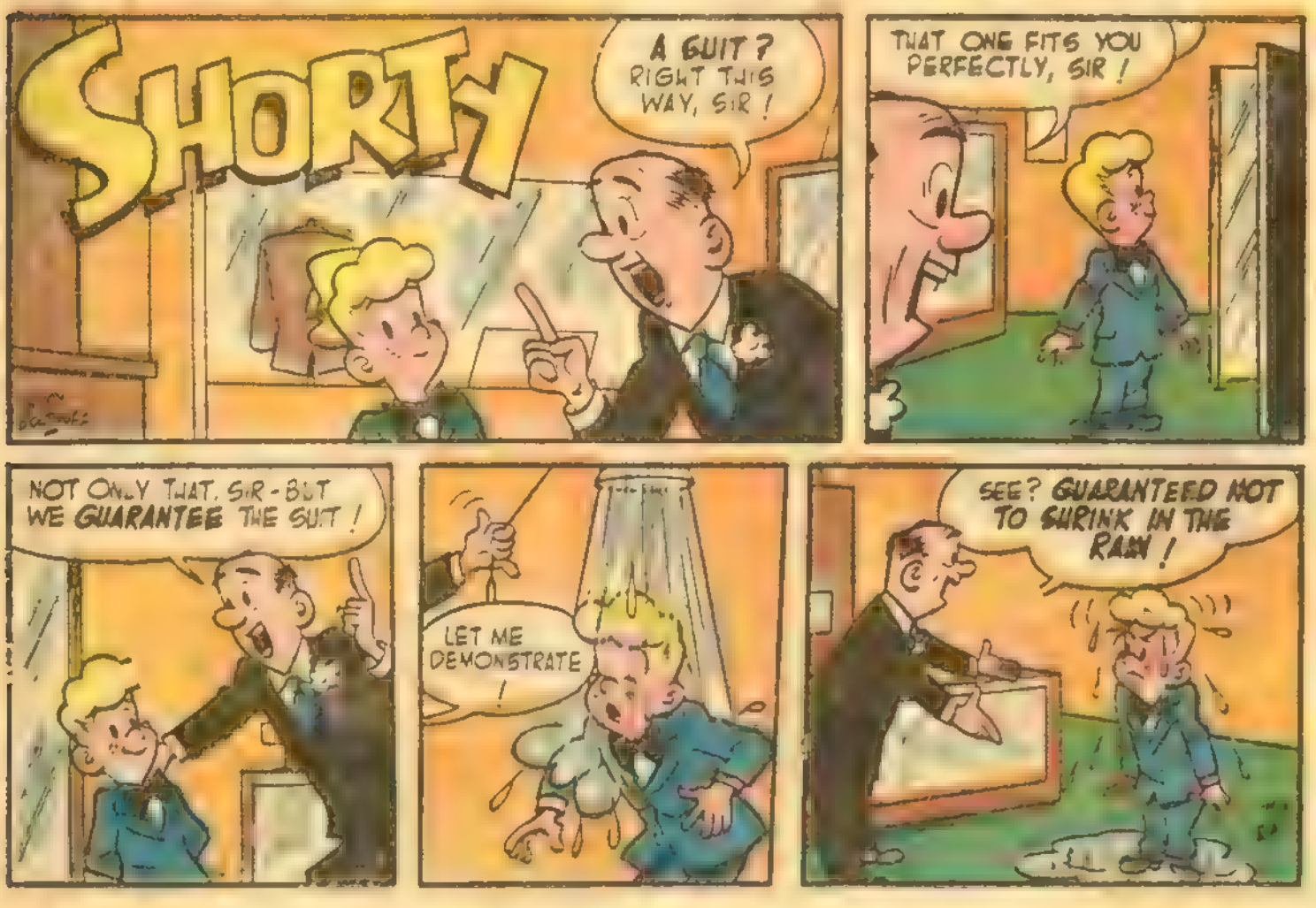
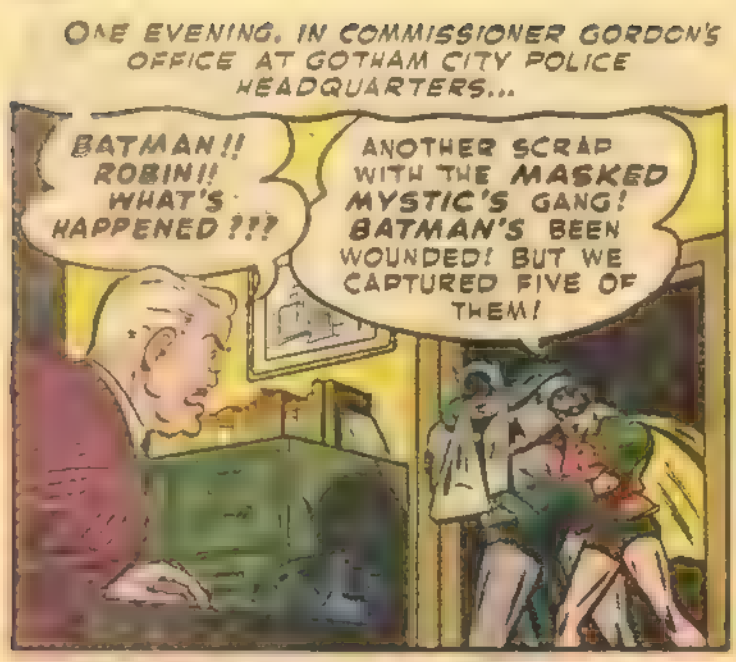
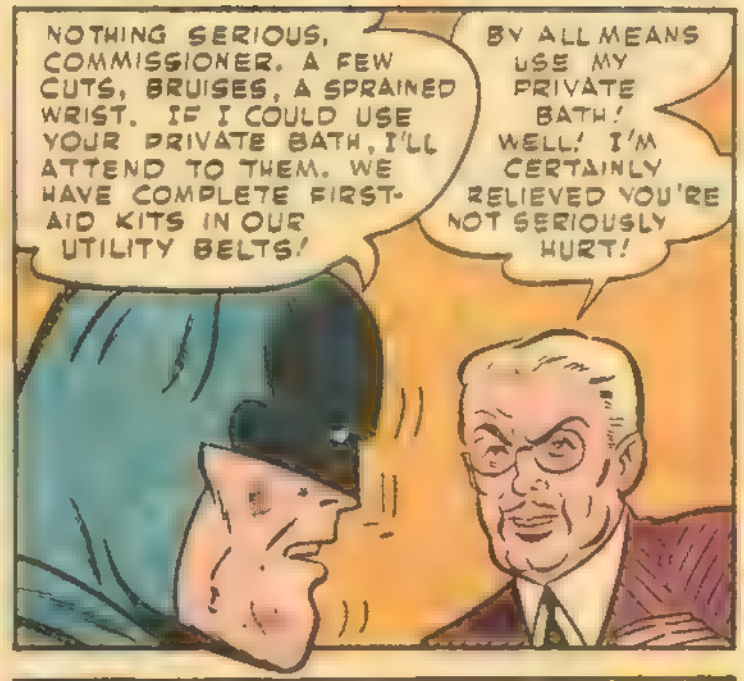
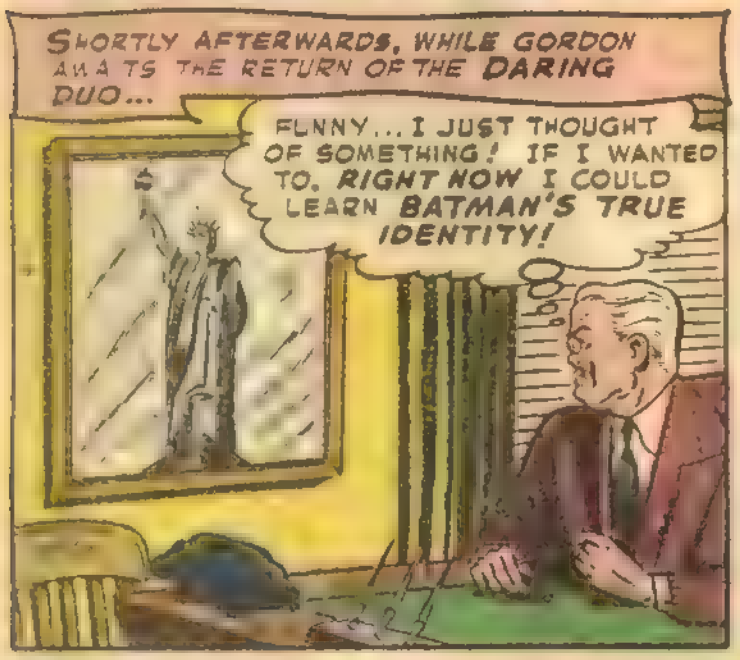

SHORTY
A SUIT? RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR!
THAT ONE FITS YOU PERFECTLY, SIR!
NOT ONLY THAT, SIR - BUT WE GUARANTEE THE SUIT!
LET ME DEMONSTRATE!
SEE? GUARANTEED NOT TO SHRINK IN THE RAIN!

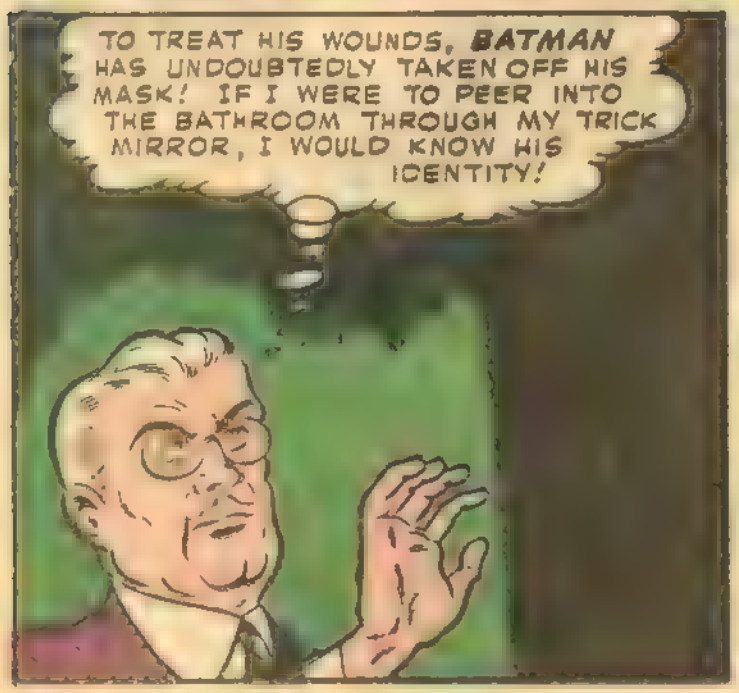
THE MOST VITAL SECRET IN ALL GOTHAM CITY IS THE SECRET OF BATMAN'S IDENTITY! COUNTLESS CRIMINALS HAVE SOUGHT IT IN VAIN... A TRIBUTE TO THE RESOURCEFULNESS OF THE DARING DUO!
BUT NOW... A NEW MENACE! AND FROM AN UNEXPECTED CORNER! COMMISSIONER GORDON... A FORMIDABLE LAWMAN HIMSELF... AND BATMAN'S CLOSEST FRIEND... TAKES FRIGHTENING ADVANTAGE OF HIS POSITION AS HE, TOO, SEEKS BATMAN'S IDENTITY IN THE STORY CALLED...
"COMMISSIONER GORDON'S GREATEST CASE!"
BAT-MAN
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
THE CASE OF BATMAN'S IDENTITY
BOB KANE

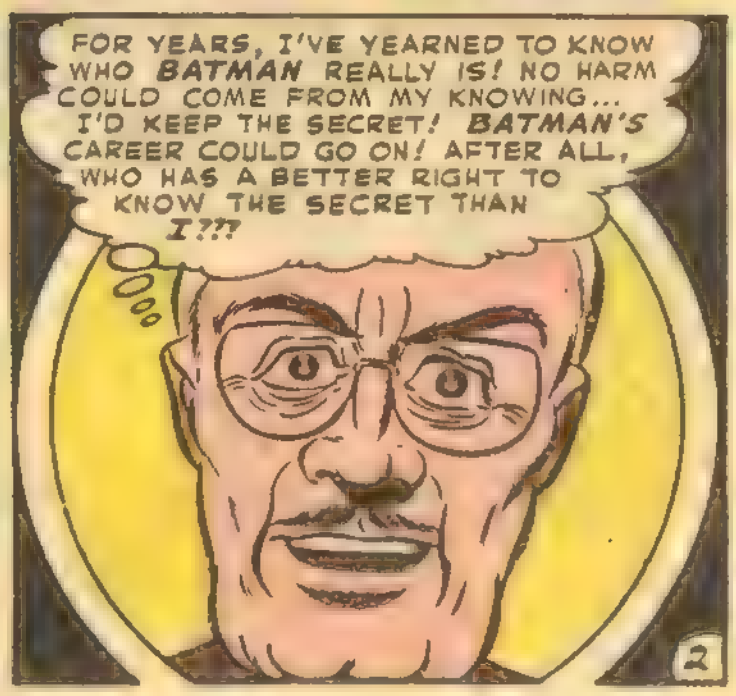

ONE EVENING, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE AT GOTHAM CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
BATMAN!! ROBIN!! WHAT'S HAPPENED???
ANOTHER SCRAP WITH THE MASKED MYSTIC'S GANG! BATMAN'S BEEN WOUNDED! BUT WE CAPTURED FIVE OF THEM!


NOTHING SERIOUS, COMMISSIONER. A FEW CUTS, BRUISES, A SPRAINED WRIST. IF I COULD USE YOUR PRIVATE BATH, I'LL ATTEND TO THEM. WE HAVE COMPLETE FIRST-AID KITS IN OUR UTILITY BELTS!
BY ALL MEANS USE MY PRIVATE BATH! WELL! I'M CERTAINLY RELIEVED YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY HURT!


SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, WHILE GORDON AWAITS THE RETURN OF THE DARING DUO...
FUNNY... I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING! IF I WANTED TO, RIGHT NOW I COULD LEARN BATMAN'S TRUE IDENTITY!

THIS PAINTING CONCEALS A SMALL PANE OF GLASS. THAT GLASS IS THE BACK OF A MIRROR IN MY BATHROOM... ONE OF THOSE TRICK MIRRORS THAT CAN BE SEEN THROUGH FROM THE OTHER SIDE...


TO TREAT HIS WOUNDS, BATMAN HAS UNDOUBTEDLY TAKEN OFF HIS MASK! IF I WERE TO PEER INTO THE BATHROOM THROUGH MY TRICK MIRROR, I WOULD KNOW HIS IDENTITY!


FOR YEARS, I'VE YEARNED TO KNOW WHO BATMAN REALLY IS! NO HARM COULD COME FROM MY KNOWING... I'D KEEP THE SECRET! BATMAN'S CAREER COULD GO ON! AFTER ALL, WHO HAS A BETTER RIGHT TO KNOW THE SECRET THAN I???

BUT THEN, GORDON MAKES A SNAP DECISION...

NO! NOT THIS WAY! I WON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BATMAN! IF I'M TO LEARN HIS IDENTITY, I'LL DO IT THE RIGHT WAY... BY SHEER BRAINWORK! THEN, WHEN I'M SURE, I'LL LURE BATMAN BACK TO THIS MIRROR... AND CONFIRM MY GUESS!

LATER THAT EVENING, AT THE COMMISSIONER'S HOME...

AFTER ALL, WHO WOULD BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO SOLVE BATMAN'S SECRET THAN MYSELF? WASN'T I THE CRACK DETECTIVE OF MY ERA, BEFORE BEING APPOINTED CHIEF AND THEN COMMISSIONER??

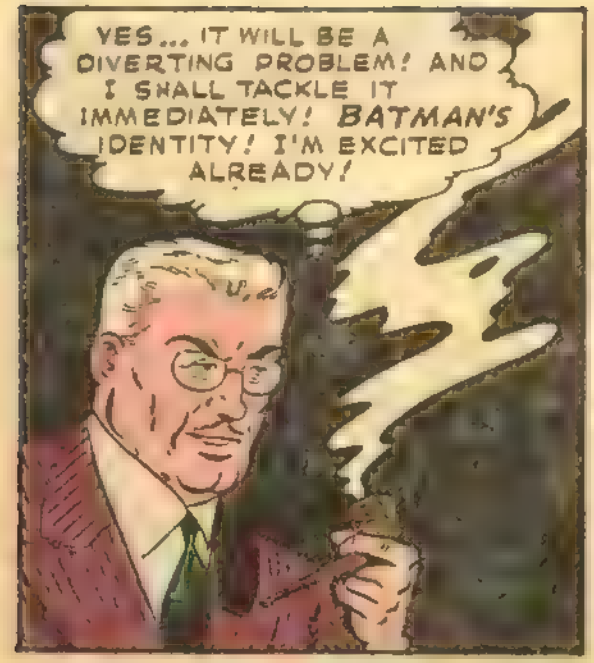
Citation
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT Commissioner Gordon IS HEREBY DECLARED WINNER FOR THE MAYOR'S PRIZE

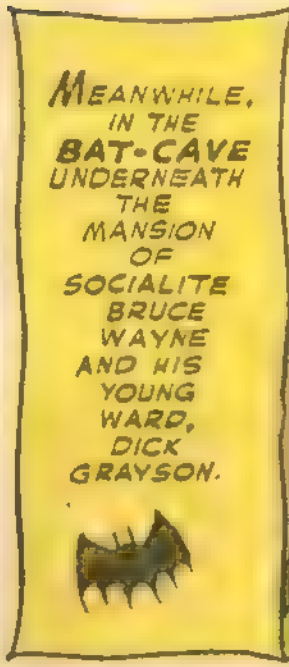
THEN, AS THE COMMISSIONER LETS HIS MIND SLIP BACK TO THE PAST...

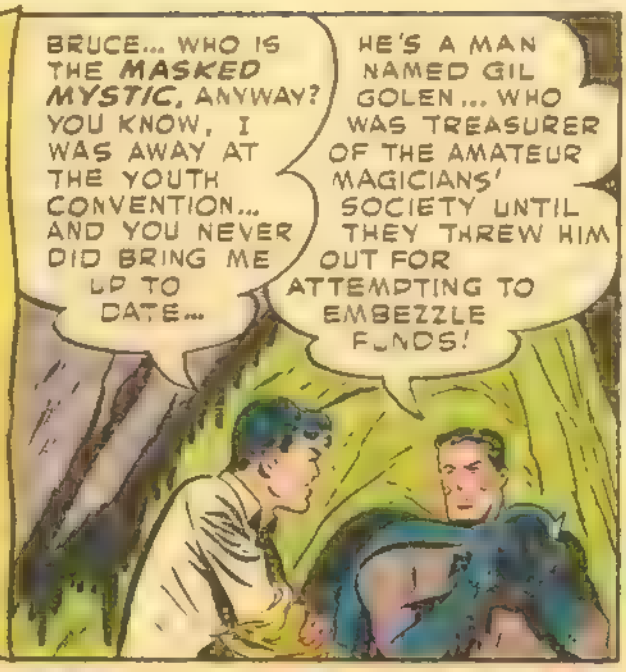
I REMEMBER THE DAY I TRAPPED THAT NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL, PETE THE PHANTOM! HE HAD ELUDED THE WHOLE FORCE!

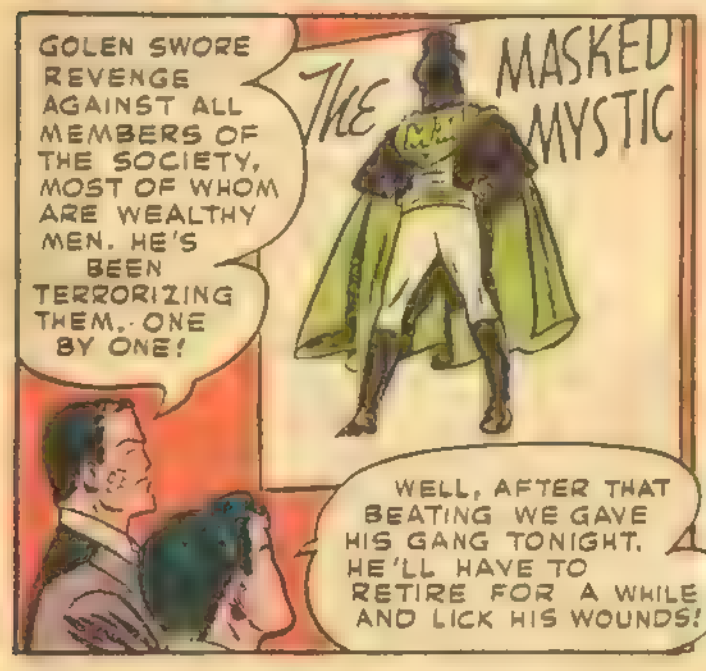
AND AS A PLAINCLOTHESMAN, DIDN'T I SOLVE THE FAMOUS WAX MUSEUM MURDERS SINGLEHANDEDLY!

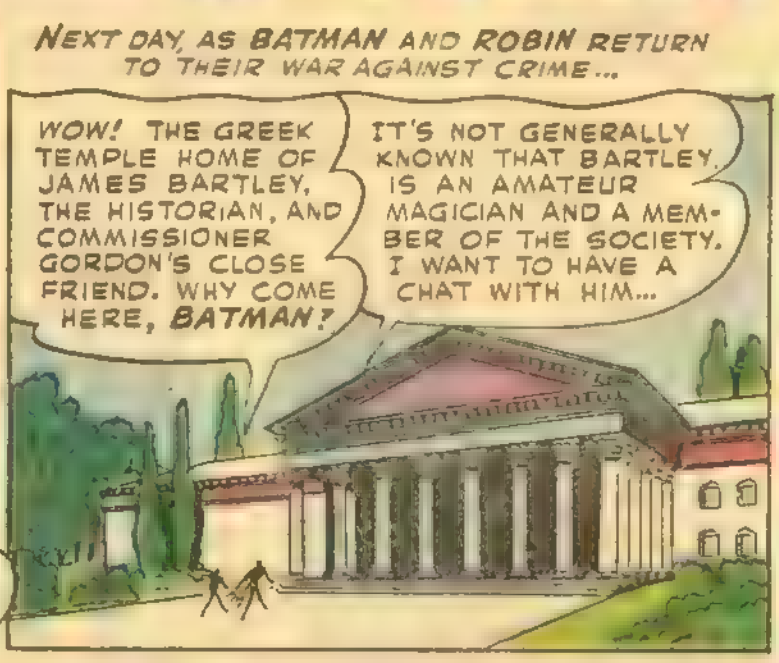
POLICE IN 48 STATES HAD BEEN FOOLED BY THE ARCH-ARSONIST, HARRY THE TORCH! BUT I NAILED HIM A WEEK AFTER I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE!

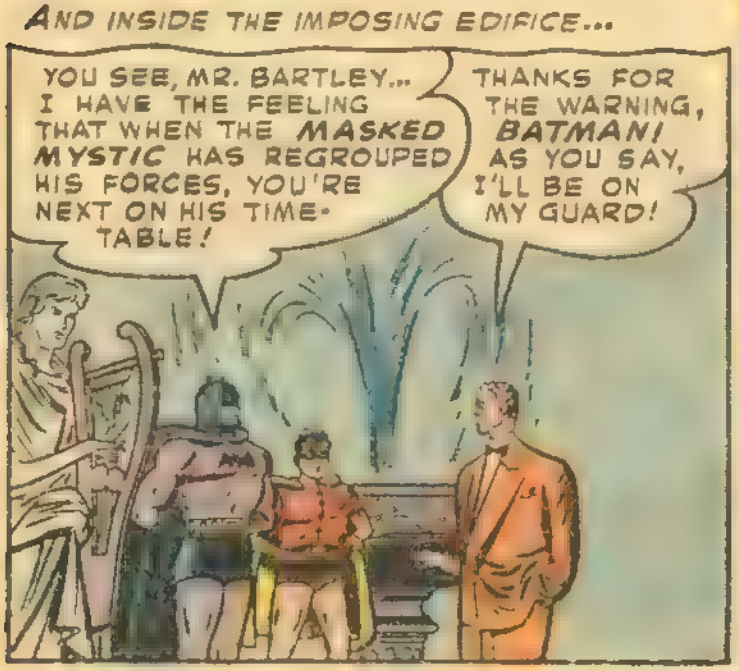

YES... IT WILL BE A DIVERTING PROBLEM! AND I SHALL TACKLE IT IMMEDIATELY! BATMAN'S IDENTITY! I'M EXCITED ALREADY!

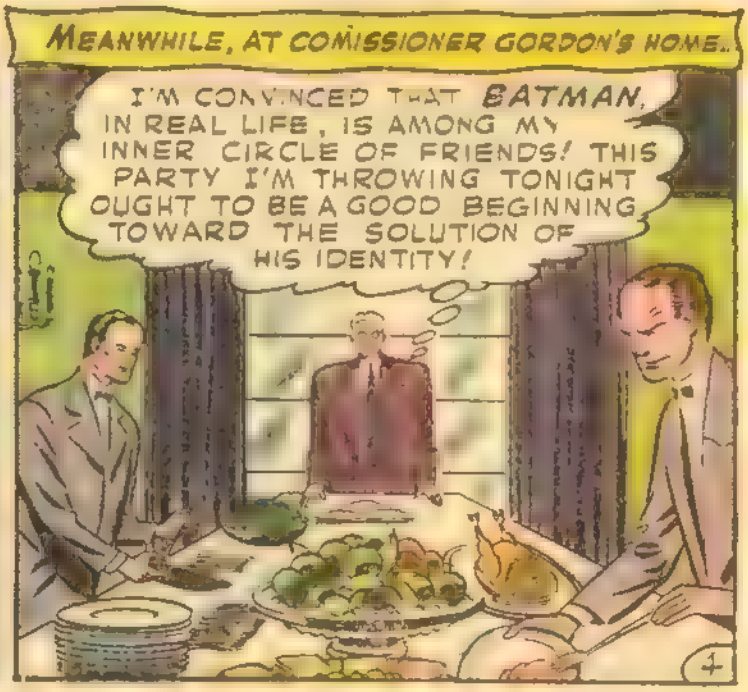

MEANWHILE, IN THE BAT-CAVE UNDERNEATH THE MANSION OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON.


BRUCE... WHO IS THE MASKED MYSTIC, ANYWAY? YOU KNOW, I WAS AWAY AT THE YOUTH CONVENTION... AND YOU NEVER DID BRING ME UP TO DATE...
HE'S A MAN NAMED GIL GOLEN... WHO WAS TREASURER OF THE AMATEUR MAGICIANS' SOCIETY UNTIL THEY THREW HIM OUT FOR ATTEMPTING TO EMBEZZLE FUNDS!


THE MASKED MYSTIC
GOLEN SWORE REVENGE AGAINST ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, MOST OF WHOM ARE WEALTHY MEN. HE'S BEEN TERRORIZING THEM, ONE BY ONE!
WELL, AFTER THAT BEATING WE GAVE HIS GANG TONIGHT, HE'LL HAVE TO RETIRE FOR A WHILE AND LICK HIS WOUNDS!


NEXT DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN TO THEIR WAR AGAINST CRIME...
WOW! THE GREEK TEMPLE HOME OF JAMES BARTLEY, THE HISTORIAN, AND COMMISSIONER GORDON'S CLOSE FRIEND. WHY COME HERE, BATMAN?
IT'S NOT GENERALLY KNOWN THAT BARTLEY IS AN AMATEUR MAGICIAN AND A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY. I WANT TO HAVE A CHAT WITH HIM...

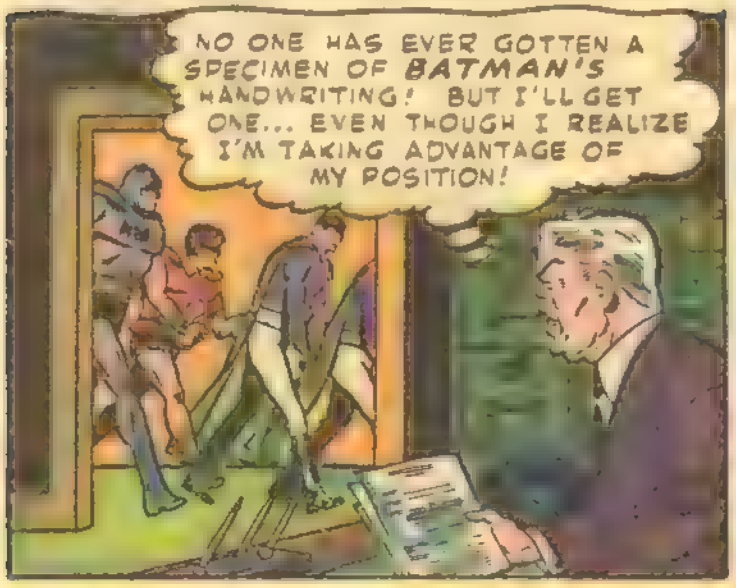

AND INSIDE THE IMPOSING EDIFICE...
YOU SEE, MR. BARTLEY... I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WHEN THE MASKED MYSTIC HAS REGROUPED HIS FORCES, YOU'RE NEXT ON HIS TIME-TABLE!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING, BATMAN! AS YOU SAY, I'LL BE ON MY GUARD!


MEANWHILE, AT COMISSIONER GORDON'S HOME..
I'M CONVINCED THAT BATMAN, IN REAL LIFE, IS AMONG MY INNER CIRCLE OF FRIENDS! THIS PARTY I'M THROWING TONIGHT OUGHT TO BE A GOOD BEGINNING TOWARD THE SOLUTION OF HIS IDENTITY!

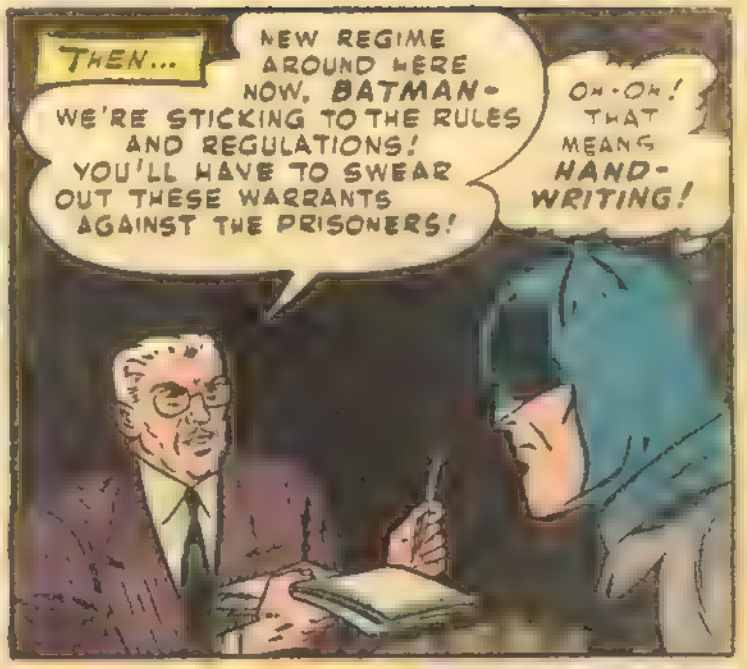
THAT EVENING, AS BRUCE AND DICK ARRIVE FOR THE PARTY...
HM...LOOKS LIKE GORDON'S HAVING HIS ROOF FIXED! LOOK AT ALL THAT TAR-PAPER OVER THERE!
RIGHT NOW I'M ADMIRING YOUR FACE... AND THE SLICK WAY YOU USED MAKE-UP TO CONCEAL THE CUTS AND BRUISES YOU RECEIVED YESTERDAY!
AND AS THE PARTY GETS UNDER WAY...
HOW ARE YOU, BARTLEY?
FINE, WAYNE... AND YOU?
HMM...IF HE'S HERE, HE WAS CLEVER ENOUGH TO CONCEAL HIS WOUNDS! BUT SOON WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN!
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...
THE BAT-SIGNAL? OH YES... I HAD ONE OF MY MEN TURN IT ON. I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST DISCUSS WITH BATMAN!
THIS IS BAD, DICK... WE'VE GOT TO THINK FAST! IT'LL BE TOO OBVIOUS, IF WE MAKE SOME EXCUSE TO LEAVE THE PARTY NOW!
HA, HA! IF BATMAN'S HERE, HE MUST BE HAVING A BAD TIME! ANYONE WHO DUCKS OUT NOW WILL GIVE HIMSELF AWAY! I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON MASON, WAYNE AND BARTLEY... THEY'RE MY CHIEF SUSPECTS!
BUT SUDDENLY, AN UNEXPECTED INTERRUPTION!
FIRE! FIRE! DON'T BE ALARMED... LEAVE BY THE MAIN DOOR!
FIRE? BUT THIS HOUSE IS FIRE PROOF!
AND MOMENTS LATER, WHEN ALL THE GUESTS HAVE FLED!
SO THIS IS THE FIRE! MY PILE OF TAR-PAPER! WELL, I'VE GOT TO HAND THIS ROUND TO BATMAN! HE WAS HERE AND FIGURED A NEAT WAY OF GETTING OUT SO HE COULD CHANGE HIS COSTUME! HE'S CLEVER, ALL RIGHT!

THEN, SOON AFTER...
YOU SENT FOR US, COMMISSIONER??
YES, BATMAN... BUT, ER, NEVER MIND. I MADE A MISTAKE...
AND LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
THAT WAS AN ODD BUSINESS TONIGHT, ROBIN! I COULD ALMOST SWEAR GORDON WAS UP TO SOME PRANK... TO MAKE US GIVE AWAY OUR IDENTITY!
IT'S POSSIBLE! EVERYONE IS INTRIGUED WITH OUR SECRET. YOU'LL HAVE TO BE DOUBLY CAREFUL NOW!
NEXT EVENING, AS CRIME FLARES UP AGAIN IN GOTHAM CITY...
LOOK! THE MASKED MYSTIC AND HIS MEN! THEY'RE WRECKING THAT BUILDING!
SURE! THAT'S THE HOME OF THE AMATEUR MAGICIANS' SOCIETY!
ALL AT ONCE...
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL JUST TAKE OVER THESE CONTROLS!
BATMAN AND ROBIN!!
AND THEN, AS BATMAN CLEVERLY IMMOBILIZES THE GIANT BALL...
I THOUGHT I COULD WRAP THAT BALL AROUND THAT GIRDER! NOW I'M FREE TO JOIN YOU, ROBIN... AND HAVE SOME REAL FUN!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A BRIEF BUT FURIOUS STRUGGLE...
WELL, THAT MAKES SIX MORE OF THE MASKED MYSTIC'S MEN WHO WON'T BE GIVING US ANY TROUBLE!
RIGHT! LET'S GET THEM DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS, ROBIN!
'RAY FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN!

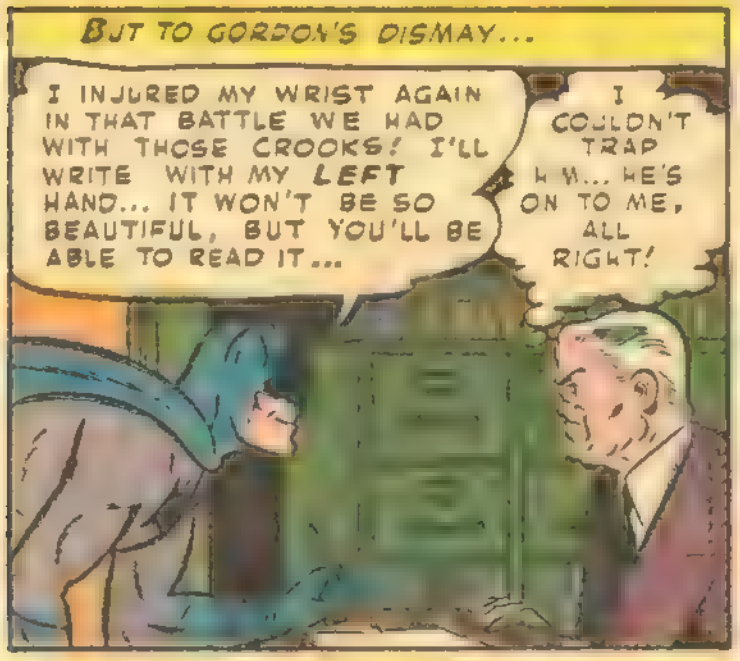
AND, LATER, AS THE PRISONERS ARE HERDED INTO THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS...


NO ONE HAS EVER GOTTEN A SPECIMEN OF BATMAN'S HANDWRITING! BUT I'LL GET ONE... EVEN THOUGH I REALIZE I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY POSITION!

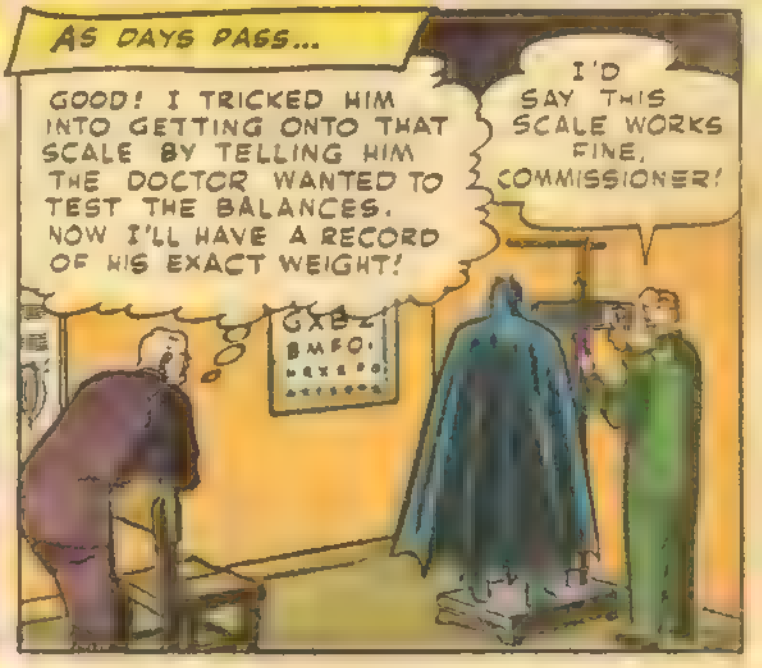
THEN...


NEW REGIME AROUND HERE NOW, BATMAN- WE'RE STICKING TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS! YOU'LL HAVE TO SWEAR OUT THESE WARRANTS AGAINST THE PRISONERS!
OH-OH! THAT MEANS HAND-WRITING!

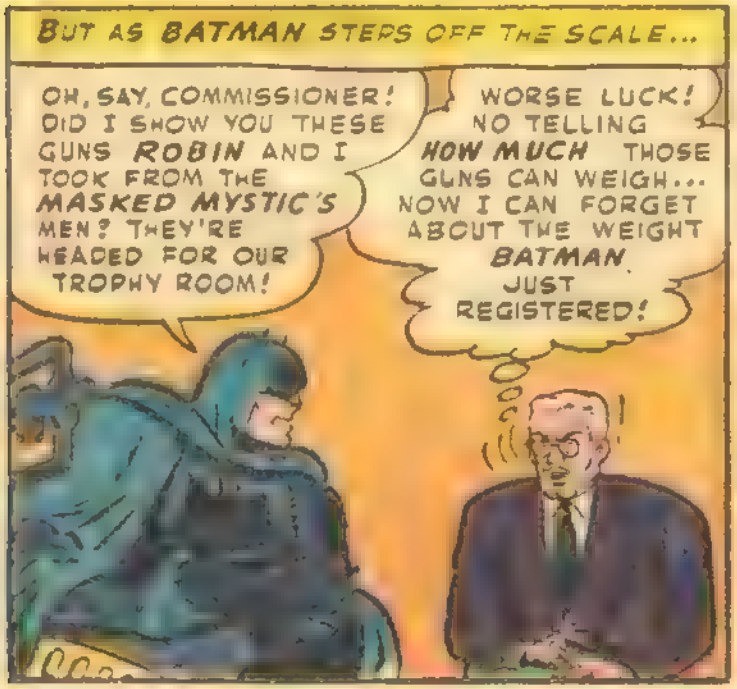
BUT TO GORDON'S DISMAY...


I INJURED MY WRIST AGAIN IN THAT BATTLE WE HAD WITH THOSE CROOKS! I'LL WRITE WITH MY LEFT HAND... IT WON'T BE SO BEAUTIFUL, BUT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO READ IT...
I COULDN'T TRAP H W... HE'S ON TO ME, ALL RIGHT!

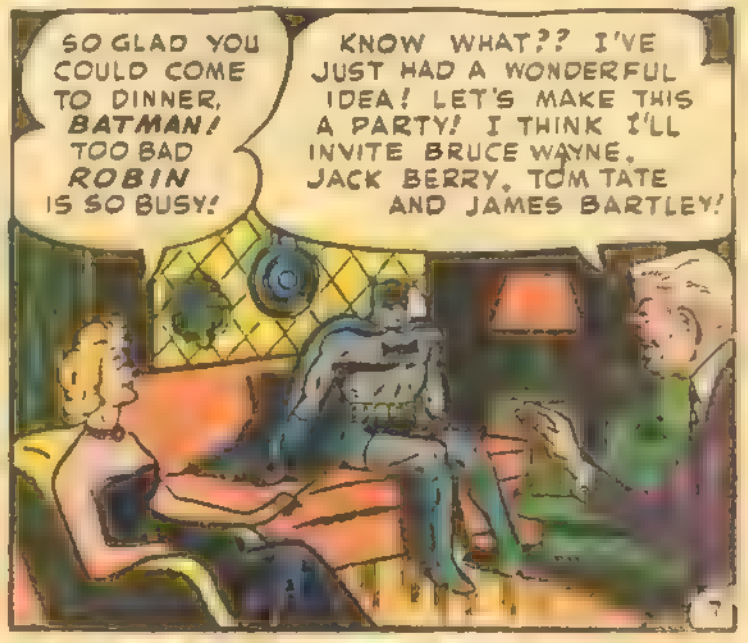
AS DAYS PASS...

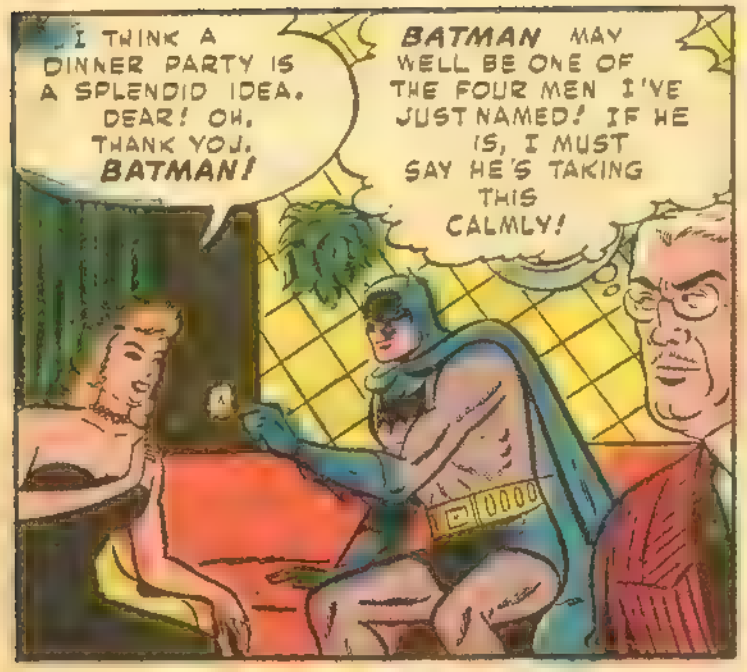

GOOD! I TRICKED HIM INTO GETTING ONTO THAT SCALE BY TELLING HIM THE DOCTOR WANTED TO TEST THE BALANCES. NOW I'LL HAVE A RECORD OF HIS EXACT WEIGHT!
I'D SAY THIS SCALE WORKS FINE, COMMISSIONER!

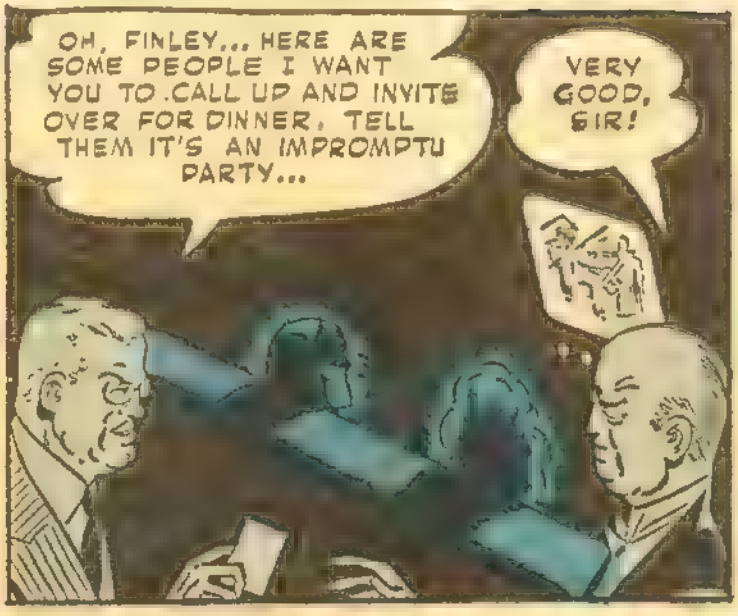
BUT AS BATMAN STEPS OFF THE SCALE...

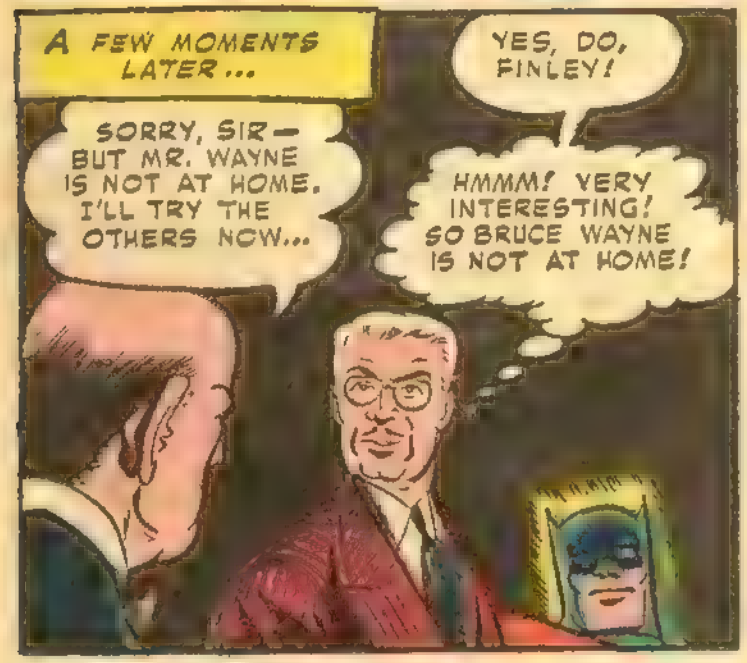

OH, SAY, COMMISSIONER! DID I SHOW YOU THESE GUNS ROBIN AND I TOOK FROM THE MASKED MYSTIC'S MEN? THEY'RE HEADED FOR OUR TROPHY ROOM!
WORSE LUCK! NO TELLING HOW MUCH THOSE GUNS CAN WEIGH... NOW I CAN FORGET ABOUT THE WEIGHT BATMAN JUST REGISTERED!

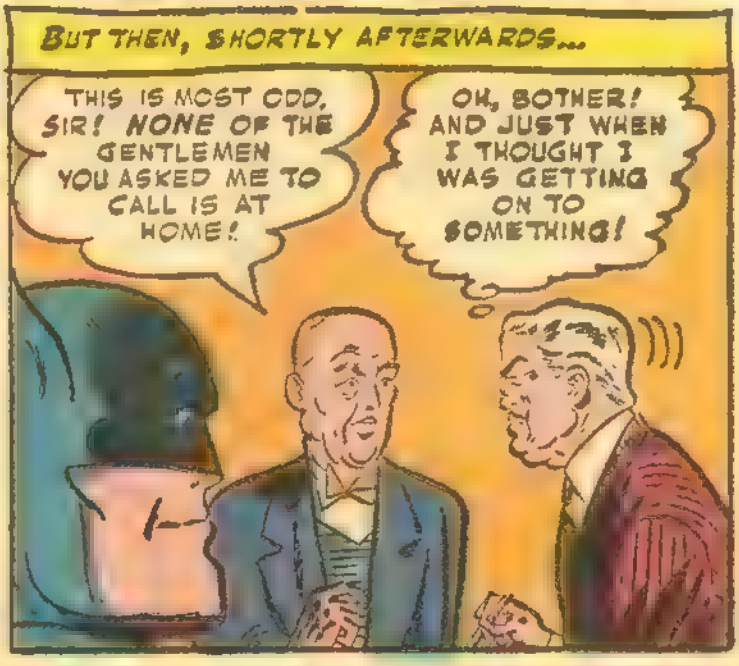
THAT NIGHT, AT GORDON'S HOME...

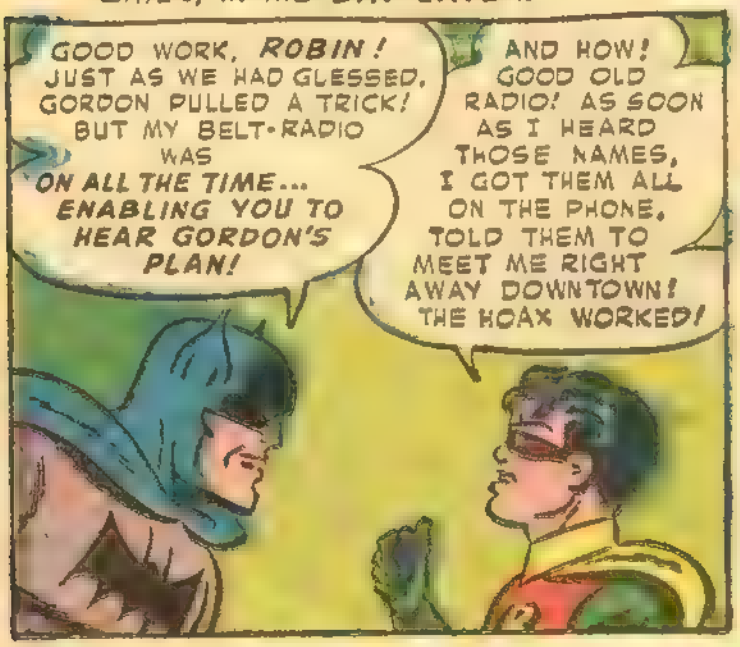

SO GLAD YOU COULD COME TO DINNER, BATMAN! TOO BAD ROBIN IS SO BUSY!
KNOW WHAT?? I'VE JUST HAD A WONDERFUL IDEA! LET'S MAKE THIS A PARTY! I THINK I'LL INVITE BRUCE WAYNE, JACK BERRY, TOM TATE AND JAMES BARTLEY!

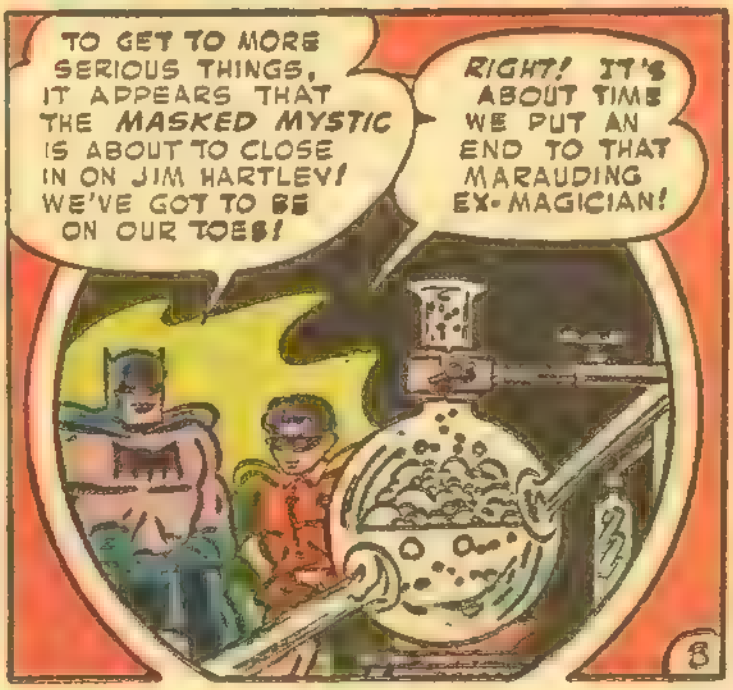

I THINK A DINNER PARTY IS A SPLENDID IDEA, DEAR! OH, THANK YOU, BATMAN!
BATMAN MAY WELL BE ONE OF THE FOUR MEN I'VE JUST NAMED! IF HE IS, I MUST SAY HE'S TAKING THIS CALMLY!

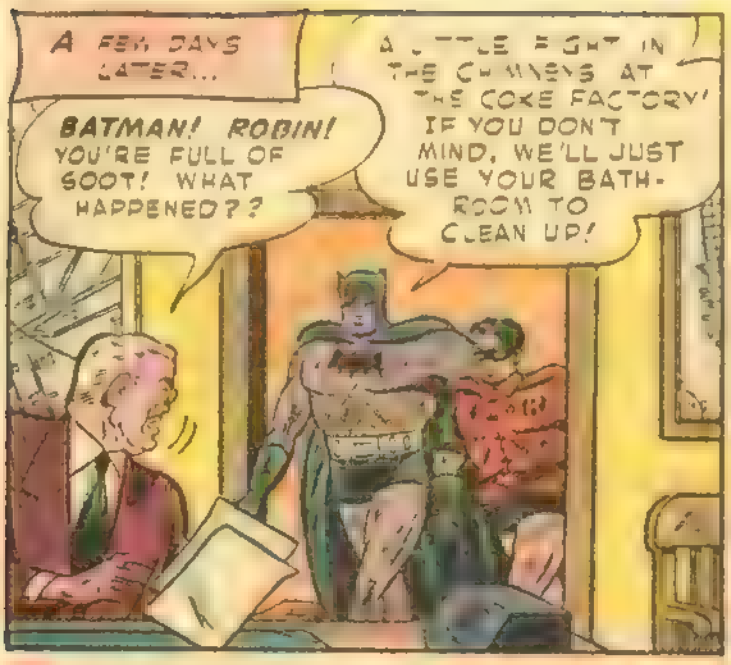

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...
OH, FINLEY... HERE ARE SOME PEOPLE I WANT YOU TO CALL UP AND INVITE OVER FOR DINNER. TELL THEM IT'S AN IMPROMPTU PARTY...
VERY GOOD, SIR!


A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
SORRY, SIR— BUT MR. WAYNE IS NOT AT HOME. I'LL TRY THE OTHERS NOW...
YES, DO, FINLEY!
HMMM! VERY INTERESTING! SO BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT AT HOME!


BUT THEN, SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...
THIS IS MOST ODD, SIR! NONE OF THE GENTLEMEN YOU ASKED ME TO CALL IS AT HOME!
OH, BOTHER! AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING ON TO SOMETHING!

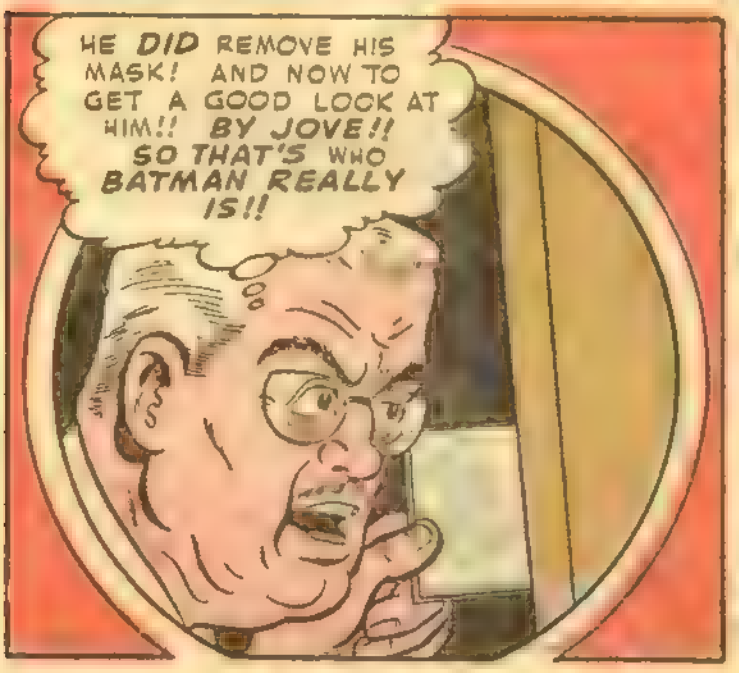

LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
GOOD WORK, ROBIN! JUST AS WE HAD GUESSED, GORDON PULLED A TRICK! BUT MY BELT-RADIO WAS ON ALL THE TIME... ENABLING YOU TO HEAR GORDON'S PLAN!
AND HOW! GOOD OLD RADIO! AS SOON AS I HEARD THOSE NAMES, I GOT THEM ALL ON THE PHONE, TOLD THEM TO MEET ME RIGHT AWAY DOWNTOWN! THE HOAX WORKED!


TO GET TO MORE SERIOUS THINGS, IT APPEARS THAT THE MASKED MYSTIC IS ABOUT TO CLOSE IN ON JIM HARTLEY! WE'VE GOT TO BE ON OUR TOES!
RIGHT! IT'S ABOUT TIME WE PUT AN END TO THAT MARAUDING EX-MAGICIAN!

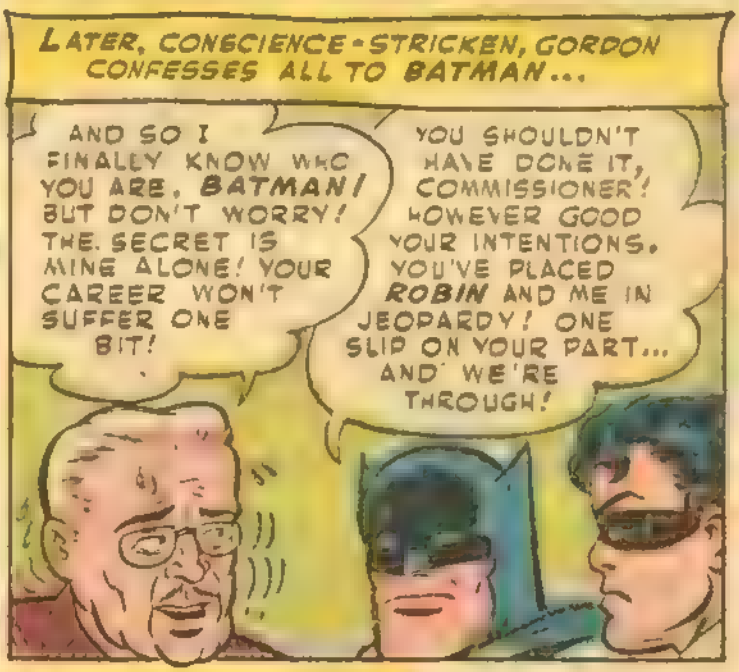

A FEW DAYS LATER...
BATMAN! ROBIN! YOU'RE FULL OF SOOT! WHAT HAPPENED??
A LITTLE FIGHT IN THE CHIMNEYS AT THE COKE FACTORY! IF YOU DON'T MIND, WE'LL JUST USE YOUR BATHROOM TO CLEAN UP!

AND THEN, COMMISSIONER GORDON FACES A TORMENTING SITUATION...

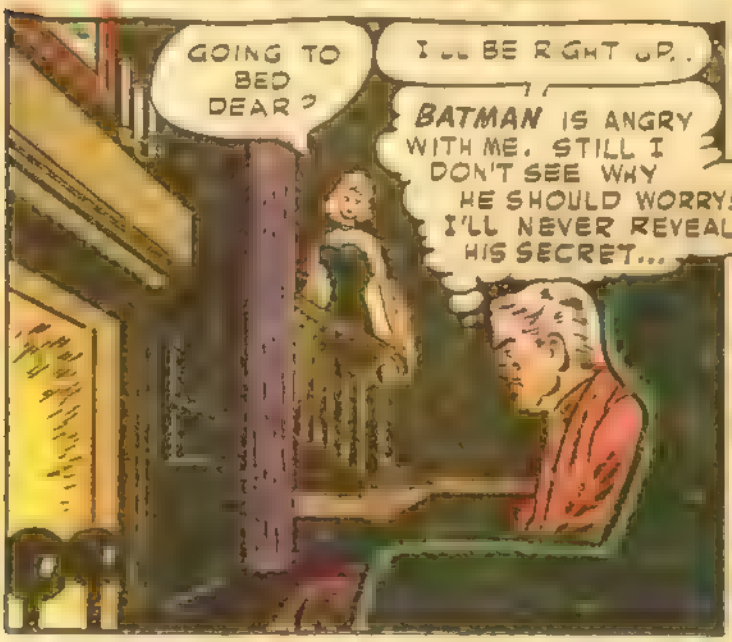
I ONCE SAID I WOULDN'T USE THIS TRICK MIRROR TO LEARN BATMAN'S IDENTITY... BUT HE'S BEEN TOO CLEVER FOR ME ... OUTWITTED ME AT EVERY TURN! NOW I'M OBSESSED WITH LEARNING HIS SECRET... I MUST TAKE A LOOK AT HIM!!



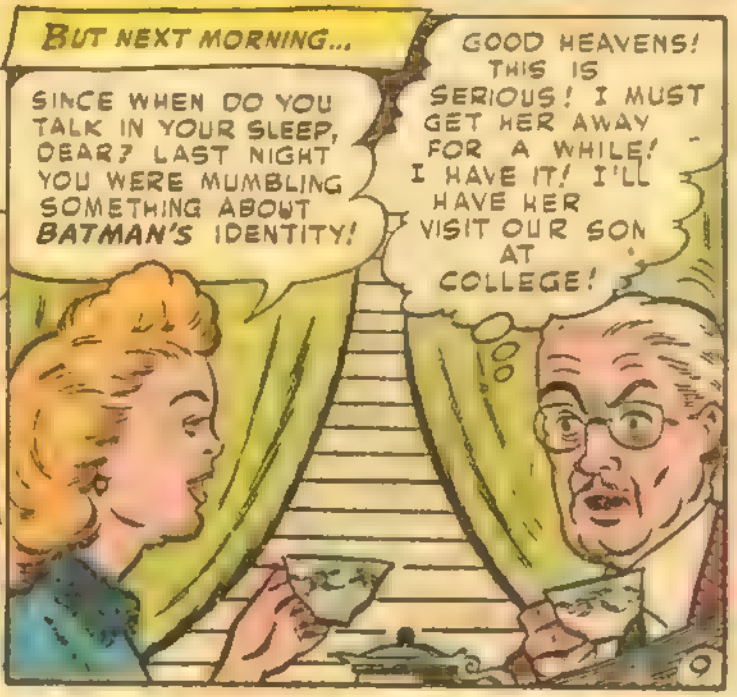
LATER, CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN, GORDON CONFESSES ALL TO BATMAN...


AND SO I FINALLY KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BATMAN! BUT DON'T WORRY! THE SECRET IS MINE ALONE! YOUR CAREER WON'T SUFFER ONE BIT!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, COMMISSIONER! HOWEVER GOOD YOUR INTENTIONS, YOU'VE PLACED ROBIN AND ME IN JEOPARDY! ONE SLIP ON YOUR PART... AND WE'RE THROUGH!

THAT EVENING, IN GORDON'S HOME...



BUT NEXT MORNING...

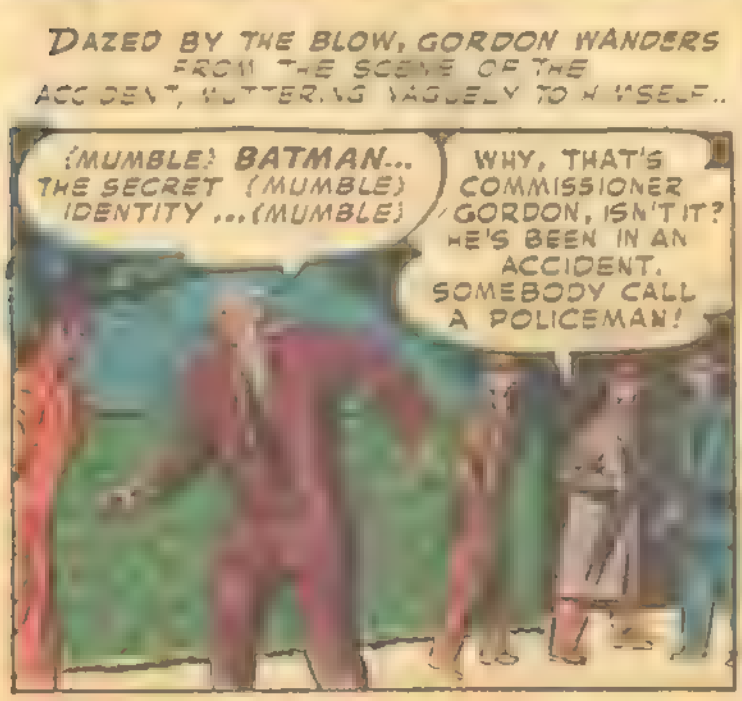

SINCE WHEN DO YOU TALK IN YOUR SLEEP, DEAR? LAST NIGHT YOU WERE MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT BATMAN'S IDENTITY!
GOOD HEAVENS! THIS IS SERIOUS! I MUST GET HER AWAY FOR A WHILE! I HAVE IT! I'LL HAVE HER VISIT OUR SON AT COLLEGE!

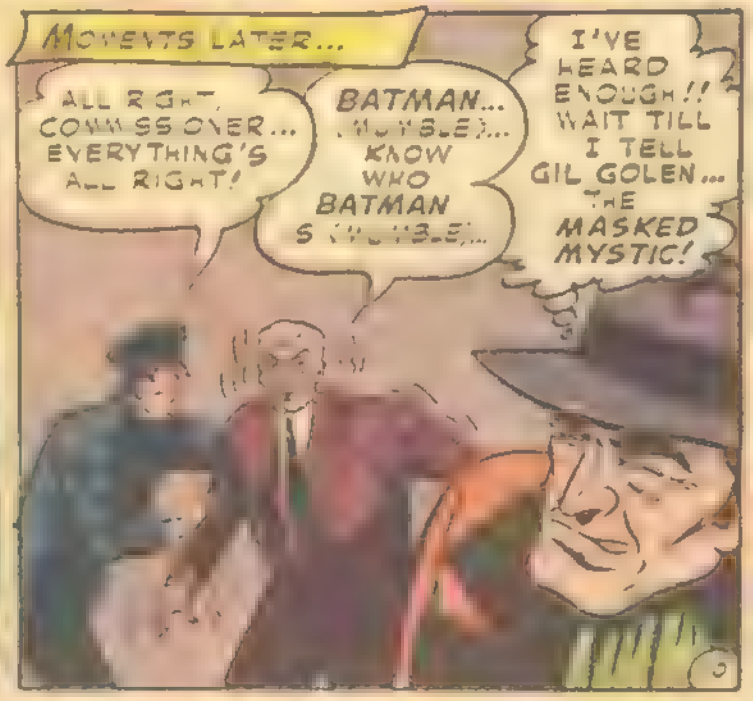
LATER THAT MORNING, AT GORDON'S OFFICE...
GOOD! SHE'S MAKING THE 11 O'CLOCK TRAIN! BY THE TIME SHE COMES BACK, MAYBE I'LL HAVE STOPPED TALKING IN MY SLEEP!

BUT THEN, AS THE COMMISSIONER STARES AT HIS SUBCONSCIOUS DOODLING ON THE PAD IN FRONT OF HIM...
THIS IS TERRIBLE!! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME??? THE SECRET SEEMS TOO MUCH FOR ME!! WHAT HAVE I LET MYSELF IN FOR???
I KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY
I KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY

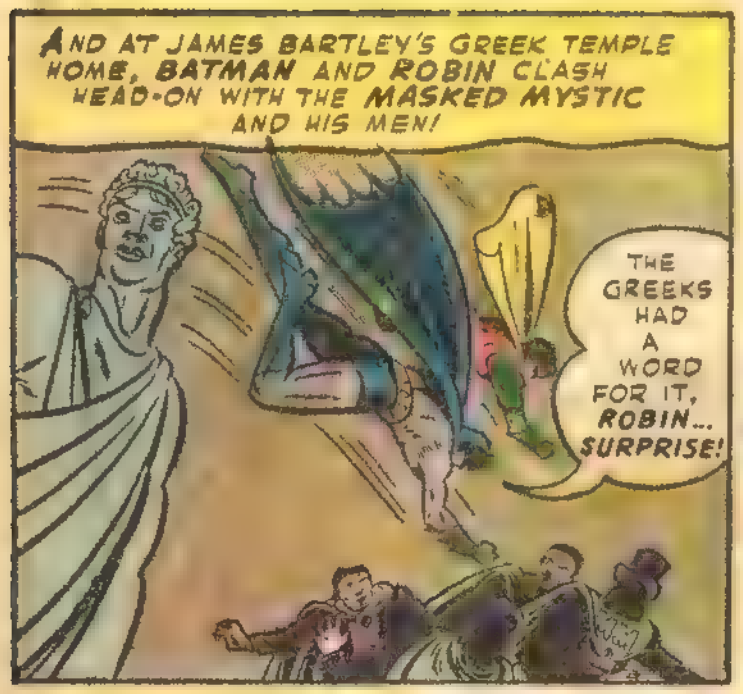
AND THAT NIGHT, AS A WORRIED GORDON DRIVES HOME...
HEY! STOP DAY-DREAMING, MAC! KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE ROAD!
THIS BUSINESS HAS ME SO UPSET, I HARDLY KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!

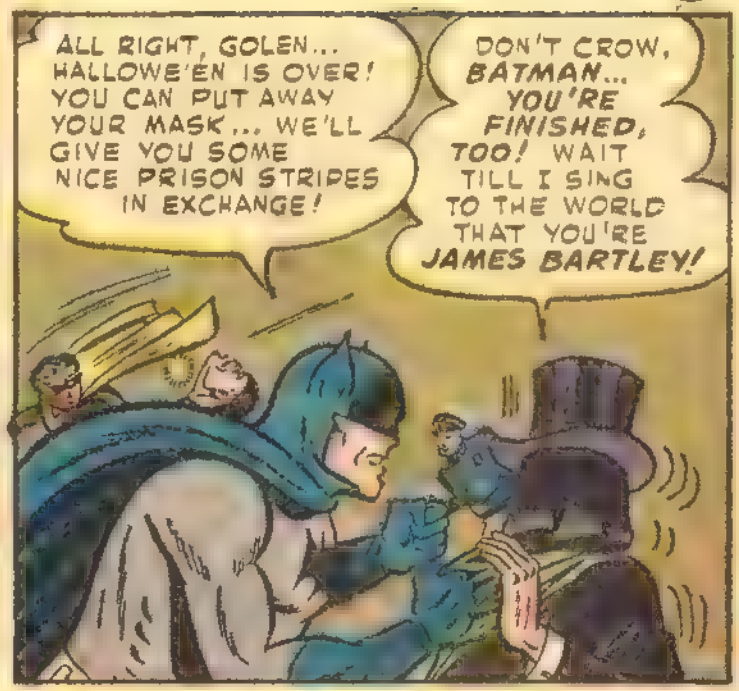
THEN, AS GORDON TRIES TO RIGHT HIS CAR, IT SKIDS OUT OF CONTROL!
OOOH! MY HEAD!!

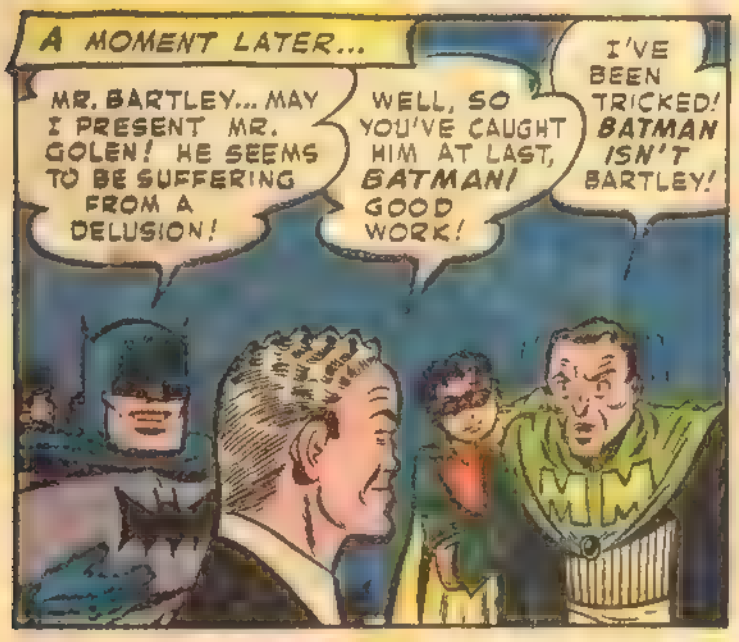

DAZED BY THE BLOW, GORDON WANDERS FROM THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT, MUTTERING VAGUELY TO HIMSELF..
(MUMBLE) BATMAN... THE SECRET (MUMBLE) IDENTITY ...(MUMBLE)
WHY, THAT'S COMMISSIONER GORDON, ISN'T IT? HE'S BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT. SOMEBODY CALL A POLICEMAN!

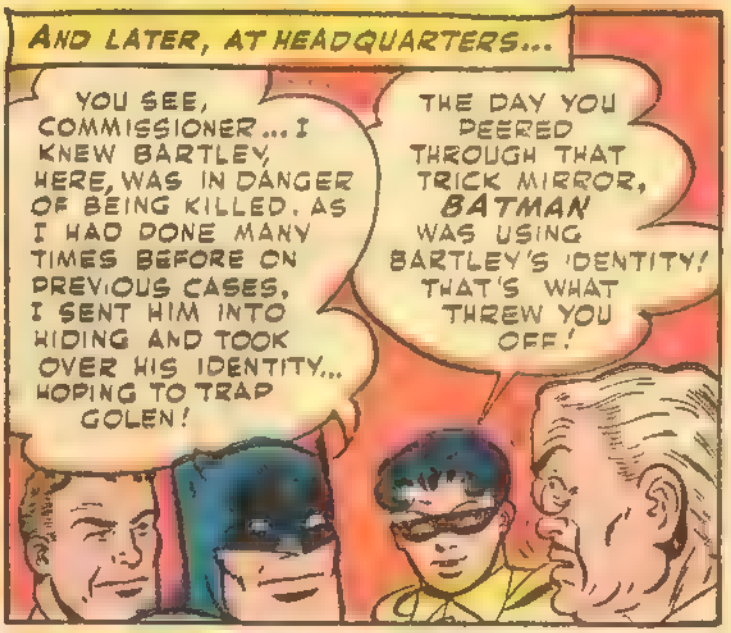

MOMENTS LATER...
ALL RIGHT, COMMISSIONER... EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT!
BATMAN... (MUMBLE)... KNOW WHO BATMAN S(MUMBLE)...
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!! WAIT TILL I TELL GIL GOLEN... THE MASKED MYSTIC!

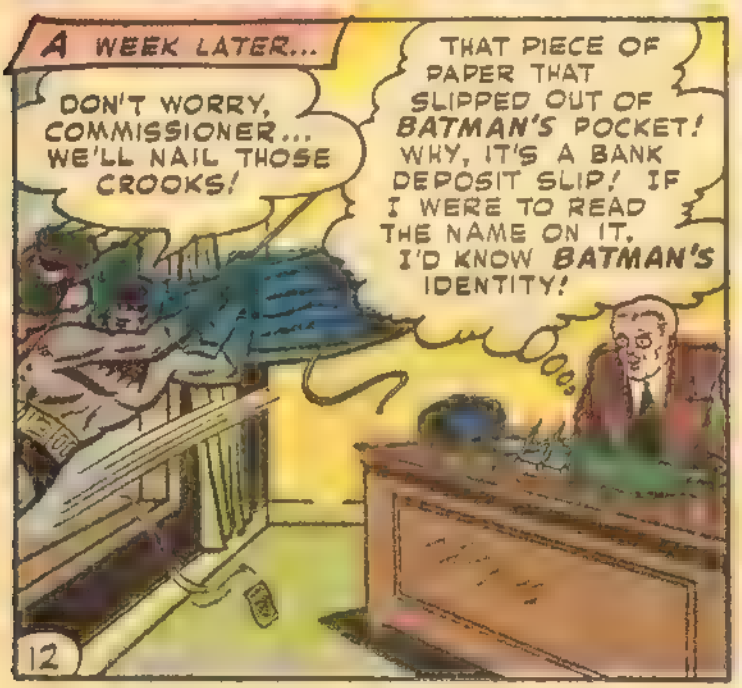
NEXT EVENING, AS GORDON CONVALESCES, UNWELCOME VISITORS STORM HIS HOUSE!
C'MON, GORDON ... TALK! WE'VE GOT MEN WATCHING YOUR WIFE AND KID UP AT THAT COLLEGE ... IF YOU WANT TO SEE THEM AGAIN ... TELL US WHO BATMAN IS!!
MY WIFE ... MY BOY! YOU FIENDS !!!
AWRIGHT, RED! CALL FOXY UP AT THAT COLLEGE TOWN. TELL HIM TO BUMP OFF THE GORDONS!
WAIT! WAIT! I'M ONLY FLESH AND BLOOD! MY POOR WIFE ... MY SON! I'LL TELL YOU WHO BATMAN REALLY IS!
... BATMAN IS REALLY MY GOOD FRIEND, JAMES BARTLEY! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
JIM BARTLEY! WELL, WHADDYA KNOW! I'VE BEEN GUNNING FOR HIM ANYWAY! C'MON, BOYS ... WE GOT A LITTLE MURDER TO PERFORM!
MOMENTS LATER...
WHAT'S HAPPENED, COMMISSIONER? HAS THE MASKED MYSTIC BEEN HERE??
YES! OH, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU, BATMAN! YOU WERE RIGHT! I COULDN'T KEEP YOUR SECRET! I TOLD THE MYSTIC YOU WERE JAMES BARTLEY ... HE'S GONE TO YOUR HOME TO KILL YOU!
SO YOU'VE SEEN THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS! LET'S HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE! YOU'VE PUT AN INNOCENT MAN ON THE SPOT! YOU SEE ... I'M NOT JAMES BARTLEY!
BUT I SAW YOUR FACE!! YOU NEVER EVEN KNEW IT! HOW COULD I BE WRONG?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! RIGHT NOW I'D BETTER BE GETTING OVER TO JAMES BARTLEY'S HOUSE ... SOMEONE'S EXPECTING ME THERE!
SO HE'S NOT JAMES BARTLEY! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
11

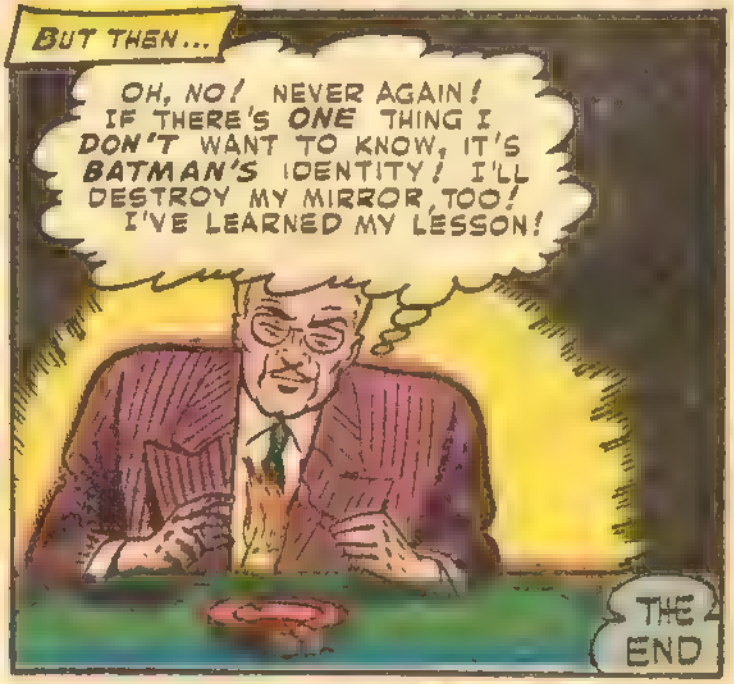

AND AT JAMES BARTLEY'S GREEK TEMPLE HOME, BATMAN AND ROBIN CLASH HEAD-ON WITH THE MASKED MYSTIC AND HIS MEN!
THE GREEKS HAD A WORD FOR IT, ROBIN... SURPRISE!


ALL RIGHT, GOLEN... HALLOWE'EN IS OVER! YOU CAN PUT AWAY YOUR MASK... WE'LL GIVE YOU SOME NICE PRISON STRIPES IN EXCHANGE!
DON'T CROW, BATMAN... YOU'RE FINISHED, TOO! WAIT TILL I SING TO THE WORLD THAT YOU'RE JAMES BARTLEY!


A MOMENT LATER...
MR. BARTLEY... MAY I PRESENT MR. GOLEN! HE SEEMS TO BE SUFFERING FROM A DELUSION!
WELL, SO YOU'VE CAUGHT HIM AT LAST, BATMAN! GOOD WORK!
I'VE BEEN TRICKED! BATMAN ISN'T BARTLEY!


AND LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS...
YOU SEE, COMMISSIONER... I KNEW BARTLEY, HERE, WAS IN DANGER OF BEING KILLED. AS I HAD DONE MANY TIMES BEFORE ON PREVIOUS CASES, I SENT HIM INTO HIDING AND TOOK OVER HIS IDENTITY... HOPING TO TRAP GOLEN!
THE DAY YOU PEERED THROUGH THAT TRICK MIRROR, BATMAN WAS USING BARTLEY'S IDENTITY! THAT'S WHAT THREW YOU OFF!


A WEEK LATER...
DON'T WORRY, COMMISSIONER... WE'LL NAIL THOSE CROOKS!
THAT PIECE OF PAPER THAT SLIPPED OUT OF BATMAN'S POCKET! WHY, IT'S A BANK DEPOSIT SLIP! IF I WERE TO READ THE NAME ON IT, I'D KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY!
12


BUT THEN...
OH, NO! NEVER AGAIN! IF THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T WANT TO KNOW, IT'S BATMAN'S IDENTITY! I'LL DESTROY MY MIRROR, TOO! I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON!
THE END

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CASE OF THE CROSSED-UP CAR CROOK

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AND I'LL TAKE THE SHORT CUT TO THE DRAWBRIDGE. MAYBE WE CAN HEAD HIM OFF!

"P-F"

STATE POLICE

SURE GLAD JIM WISE TOLD US ABOUT "P-F's"

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2. SPONGE RUBBER CUSHION.

"P-F" MEANS POSTURE FOUNDATION ®

THANKS, MR. FLYNN, THAT WILL STOP THE STOLEN CAR!

SCREECH!

THAT WAS MIGHTY FAST ACTION, BOYS!

LUCKY WE WERE WEARING OUR "P-F's"

THEY HELPED US RUN AT OUR BEST ALL THE WAY

TAKE A TIP FROM JIM WISE!

GET YOUR "P-F" CANVAS SHOES TODAY AND SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW THEY HELP:

...LESSEN FOOT AND LEG MUSCLE STRAIN

...INCREASE ENDURANCE

...YOU GO FULL SPEED LONGER

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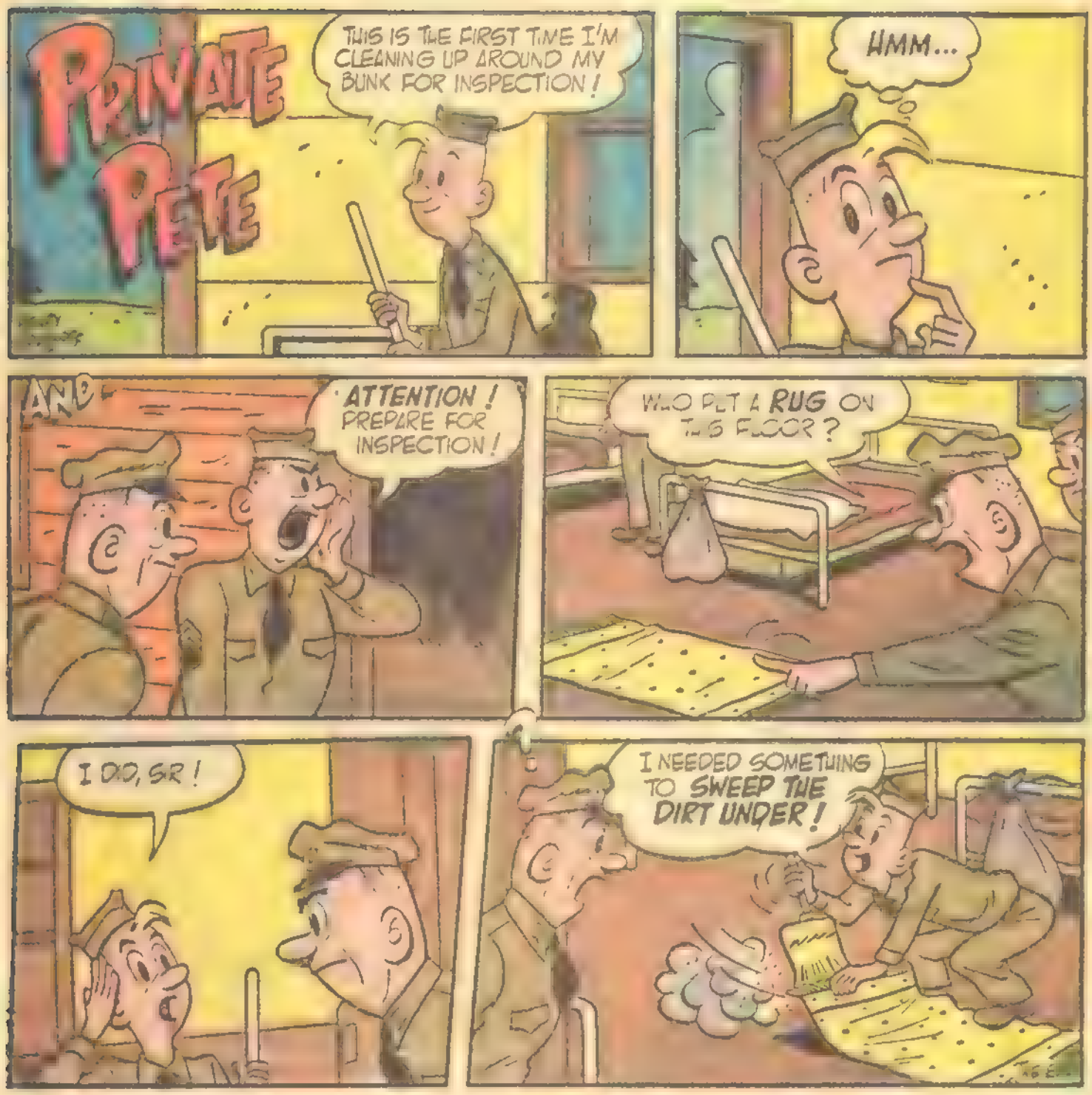
PRIVATE PETE
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M CLEANING UP AROUND MY BUNK FOR INSPECTION!
HMM...
AND—
ATTENTION! PREPARE FOR INSPECTION!
WHO PUT A RUG ON THIS FLOOR?
I DID, SIR!
I NEEDED SOMETHING TO SWEEP THE DIRT UNDER!

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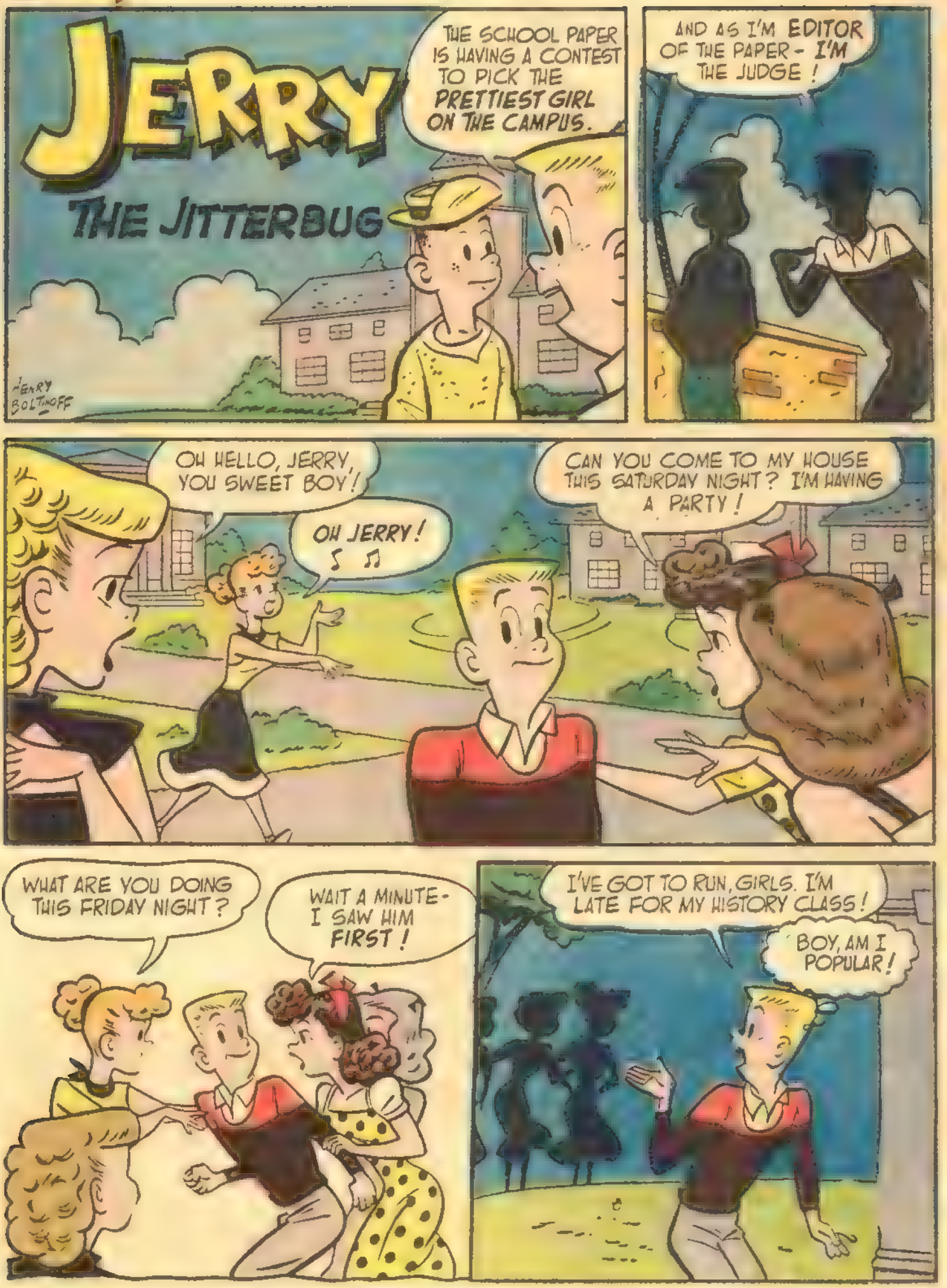
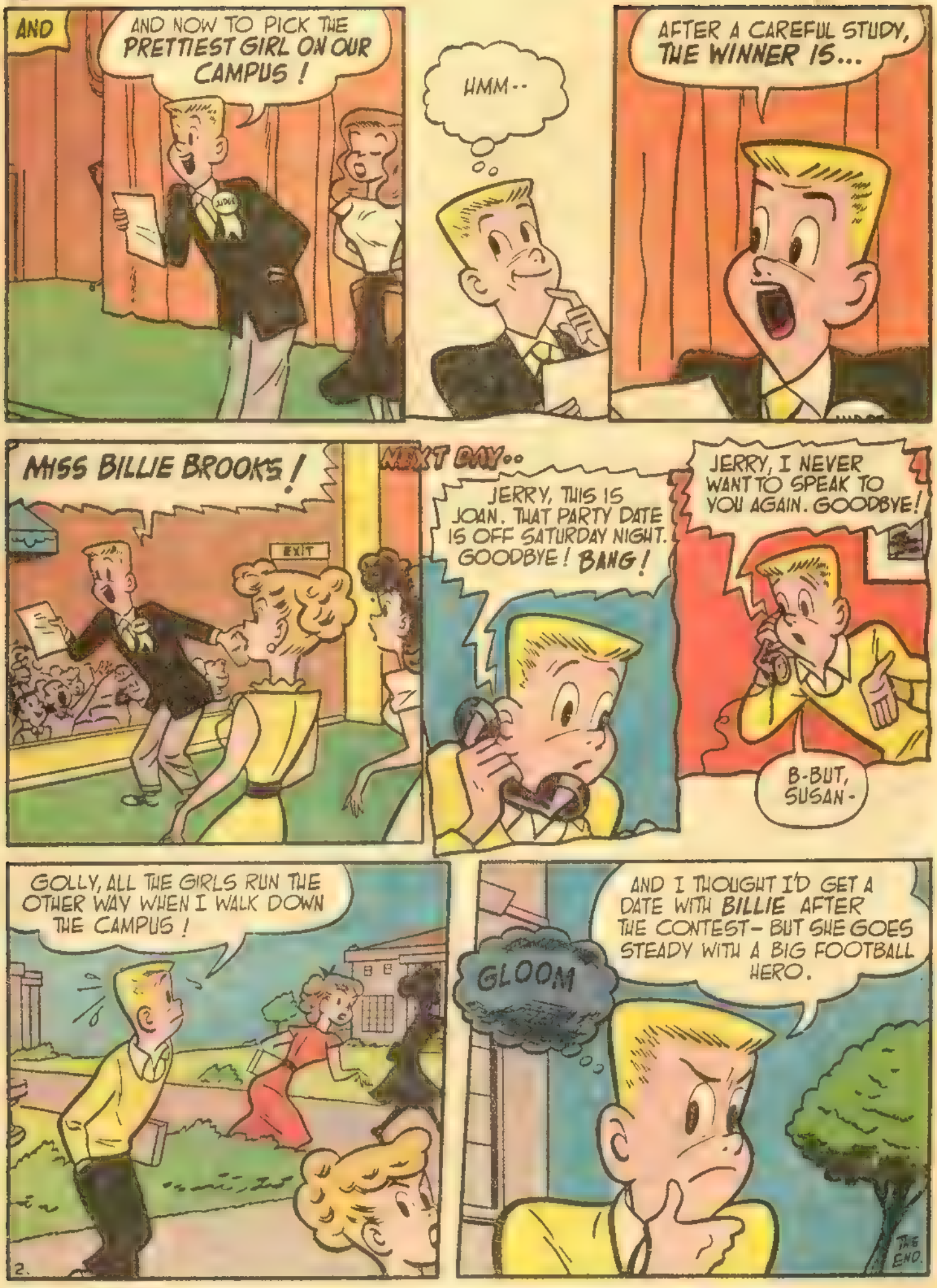
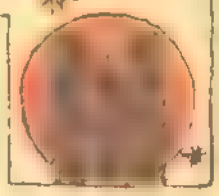

JERRY
THE JITTERBUG
THE SCHOOL PAPER IS HAVING A CONTEST TO PICK THE PRETTIEST GIRL ON THE CAMPUS.
HENRY BOLTINOFF
AND AS I'M EDITOR OF THE PAPER - I'M THE JUDGE !
OH HELLO, JERRY, YOU SWEET BOY!
OH JERRY!
CAN YOU COME TO MY HOUSE THIS SATURDAY NIGHT? I'M HAVING A PARTY !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS FRIDAY NIGHT?
WAIT A MINUTE - I SAW HIM FIRST !
I'VE GOT TO RUN, GIRLS. I'M LATE FOR MY HISTORY CLASS!
BOY, AM I POPULAR!


AND
AND NOW TO PICK THE PRETTIEST GIRL ON OUR CAMPUS !
JUDGE
HMM--
AFTER A CAREFUL STUDY, THE WINNER IS...
MISS BILLIE BROOKS !
EXIT
NEXT DAY..
JERRY, THIS IS JOAN. THAT PARTY DATE IS OFF SATURDAY NIGHT. GOODBYE ! BANG !
JERRY, I NEVER WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN. GOODBYE!
B-BUT, SUSAN-
GOLLY, ALL THE GIRLS RUN THE OTHER WAY WHEN I WALK DOWN THE CAMPUS !
2.
GLOOM
AND I THOUGHT I'D GET A DATE WITH BILLIE AFTER THE CONTEST- BUT SHE GOES STEADY WITH A BIG FOOTBALL HERO.
THE END.

The fantastic story of the Paris Gun



In the Old Soldier's Memory, It Will Always Live As One of the Most Daring Military Exploits Ever Made

THE Germans' fabulous Paris gun—the cannon that in World War I lobbed shells into Paris from 75 miles away—is out-of-date now, what with such modern improvements as rockets, pin-point bombing, and guided missiles. But the story of this monster weapon still remains one of the most fascinating chapters in the history of warfare.

Barrages of shells rumbled toward the Allied lines, and in the trenches the sharp explosions of the hand-grenades punctuated the continuous rifle and machine-gun fire. The big push was on! The German High Command knew that it had to win this offensive or lose the war. To gain the victory, it employed every means at its command.

Behind the trenches, well-hidden in the forest of Crepy, was one of its hopes. At 4 A.M. on a cold, grey morning, technicians and crews tending this hope began their duties. Reports sifted into the field weather station—pages of figures on the weight, pressure, and humidity of the air at various altitudes. The experts calculated, and gave orders to the crew.

A long streamlined shell with a number 1 painted on it was slid into the cannon. Silken bags of gunpowder, over six feet each, were shoved into the firing chamber. The breech block was swung shut. GHQ was notified, and shortly afterward issued the one-word order, "Fire!"

At 7:09 A.M. on March 23, 1918, a 120-foot barrel belched flame and a murderous roar—and from this fury 260 pounds of destruction emerged at a speed of a mile a second, headed towards Paris.

Although artillery officers of the German Army knew that missiles aimed at a target 75 miles distant would be very inaccurate, they were willing to take the chance that one of the shells might explode on the building of the French Ministry of War and destroy valuable maps, plans, and records. Perhaps it would kill some important people. Or maybe it would land on a factory or an ammunition dump near Paris. At the very least, thought the German generals, it would have a spirit-lifting effect on the German warriors and might demoralize the population of Paris and some French soldiers.

The problems in building the gun were immense. It was so long that its muzzle would have drooped unless it was supported by a special girder. Because of the tremendous heat and pressure, the barrel would expand slightly after each shot. Therefore, each shell was forged wider than the last, and numbered so that each would be fired in proper order. After 60 shots or so, the barrel would be worn out, and a new one had to be ready. All these difficulties the Germans overcame in building their super-gun.

It had several names. Officially, it was the *Kaiser Wilhelm Geschutz* (the Kaiser Wilhelm Gun). It was usually called the *Paris Geschultz* (the Paris Gun). The crew named

it the *Pariserin* (the Parisian). But one thing it was never called: Big Bertha. That was the name of a large mortar used by the Germans, and it wasn't until after the war that the Paris gun mistakenly got stuck with a name that wasn't its own.

Clouds of red-orange smoke drifted through the trees after the Paris gun had fired its first shot. Two minutes later, the barrel was still vibrating. Finally, after three and a third minutes of flight, the missile exploded at No. 6 Quai de la Seine in Paris.

Although the house was devastated, no real damage was done to the war effort. At 7:40, the second shell landed, a mile and a half from the first, killing eight Parisians and wounding 15. Twenty-five minutes later, the third shell dropped, and at 8:17, the fourth. Thus the bombardment continued throughout the day, the missiles exploding at an average of one every 15 minutes and forming an irregular pattern of hits around the center of Paris.

Paris was thrown into turmoil. The public thought that an airplane was bombing the city. Newspapers suggested that a German heavy gun had been set up in secret in the forests outside of Paris and was shelling the city from there. But French artillery experts guessed the truth.

By noon, when 24 projectiles had fallen, they were able to see that the pattern of shell holes indicated a line of flight that cut the German lines near the forest of Crepy. Aerial photographs, taken earlier, showed a railroad line leading into the forest. Possibly, thought the French, a giant rail-transported gun was hidden here. Within 30 hours after the first shell landed in Paris, French batteries were firing back at the *Kaiser Wilhelm Geschutz.*

On March 24—Palm Sunday—the shelling began again. Sometimes, two explosions were heard within a one-minute interval; this showed that at least two guns were being used, for the fastest these guns could fire was one round every 10 minutes. Actually—in spite of the German statements that there was only one gun—there were three, but one of them collapsed after only four shots.

On Sunday, the impact area of the shells averaged 2.4 miles closer to the German lines than Saturday's area—evidence that the Paris guns, like all big guns, were beginning to wear out quickly. During the week, the Germans slowed up the shelling in order to preserve the gun barrels as long as possible. On Good Friday, they made their only major hit when a shell struck a church and killed 88 worshippers.

Meanwhile, the German offensive was moving up, and the monster guns twice moved up with it, until they were shelling the French capital from a distance of only 56 miles. Then the tide turned, and the cannon had to retreat with the Germans. Soon, the Germans were retreating so rapidly that the Paris guns were more trouble than they were worth. On August 7, they fired their last shots.

Since March 23, they had fired 367 shells, killing just over 300 people but causing almost no damage to the French war effort. The main thing that they did for the Germans was to teach them a super-lesson in gunnery, for each gun was so big and threw its shell so far that many factors which are disregarded in aiming smaller cannon had to be watched. Today, however, results far more accurate than those the Paris gun got can be obtained through more modern methods. But the *Kaiser Wilhelm Geschutz* will always live in the soldier's memory as one of the most daring military experiments ever made!

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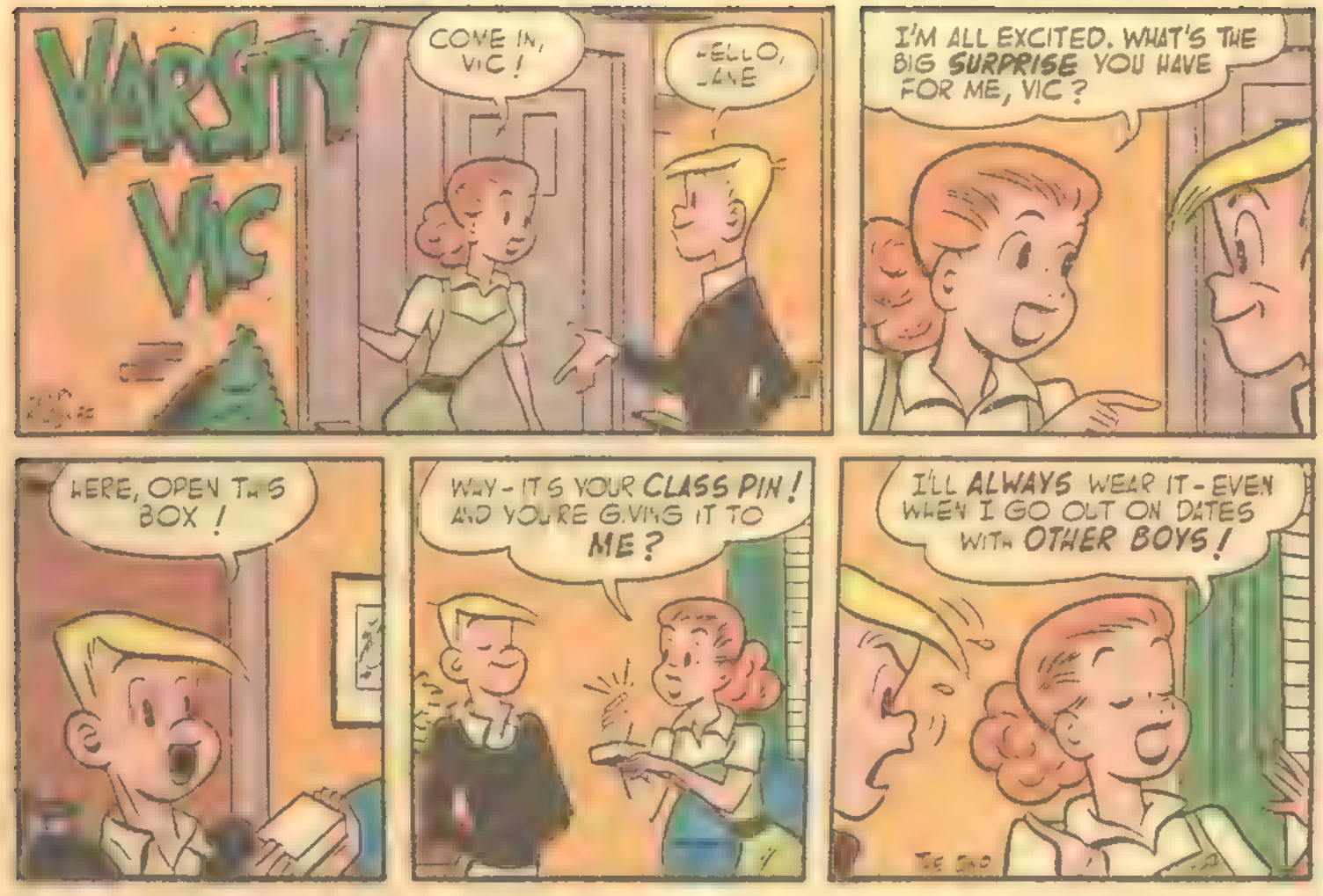
VARSITY VIC
COME IN, VIC!
HELLO, JANE
I'M ALL EXCITED. WHAT'S THE BIG SURPRISE YOU HAVE FOR ME, VIC?
HERE, OPEN THIS BOX!
WOW - IT'S YOUR CLASS PIN! AND YOU'RE GIVING IT TO ME?
I'LL ALWAYS WEAR IT - EVEN WHEN I GO OUT ON DATES WITH OTHER BOYS!
THE END

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CAN YOU IMAGINE BATMAN AND ROBIN AGREEING NOT TO BOTHER CERTAIN GANGSTERS? CAN YOU GUESS WHY NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS ARE VANISHING INTO THIN AIR, WHILE THEIR CRIMES GROW EVER MORE PLENTIFUL? THE TWO RIDDLES ARE LINKED, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO TURNS LIGHTNING WITS AND SUPPLE MUSCLES TO THE TASK OF SOLVING THE GRIM AND PERILOUS MYSTERY BEHIND..
BATMAN
ROBIN
"the MASK of MR. CIPHER!"
BOB KANE
WATCH FOR THESE CRIMINA
WANTED FOR ROBBER
JACK JO
WANTED FOR
SLICK
WANTED FOR

ONE EVENING, IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM CITY'S THEATRE DISTRICT...
TICKET AGENCY
IN THE NAME OF THE LAW
HEY... IT'S BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?.. PLUGGING THE S-CW?
NO... THEY'RE STAGING ONE OF THEIR OWN... AND IT'S REAL! SEE THOSE BANDITS RUNNING OUT OF THAT TICKET AGENCY!
SMACK
WOW! LOOK AT THEM SAIL IN! THOSE CROOKS HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
YEAH! WHAT A TEAM!
BUT JUST THEN, ONE OF THE GUNMEN FLASHES A LITTLE METAL DISC IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND, AND...
PSST! I CAN'T AFFORD TROUBLE WITH THE LAW RIGHT NOW, BATMAN!
HUH? OKAY... GET SET TO LAM!
ABRUPTLY..
I'LL SHOW YOU... OOPS! SORRY, ROBIN... ...ER...TRIPPED!
GOOD GRIEF! I'VE NEVER SEEN BATMAN BLUNDER LIKE THAT BEFORE!
COME ON GUYS... MAKE IT FAST!
IMAGINE...THEY HAD THE ROBBERS, THEN LOST THEM THROUGH A CLUMSY ACCIDENT!
ACCIDENT, MY FOOT! IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE! THERE'S TALK ABOUT BATMAN LETTING CERTAIN CROOKS ESCAPE.. IF THEY PAY HIM ENOUGH!
LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RESUME THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES AS SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
..IT IS RUMORED THAT BATMAN IS IN THE EMPLOY OF VARIOUS GANGSTERS WHO PAY HIM WELL TO LET THEM GO FREE!
YES.. WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT MORE CAREFULLY, DICK!
WE SURE GOT OURSELVES INTO SOMETHING WHEN WE AGREED TO FALL DOWN ON AN OCCASIONAL JOB
Cafe
WHAT'S THIS? CAN THE RUMORS POSSIBLY BE SO?

NEXT DAY, A CONFERENCE OVER GORDON'S OFFICE

WHAT'S NEW, COMMISSIONER?

THESE LETTERS FROM CITIZENS DEMAND THAT I REPUDIATE YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR RUMORED FRIENDSHIP WITH CRIMINALS... AND THIS ITEM IN WALLY WAKEFUL'S COLUMN!

TSK, TSK. NO WONDER MY EARS ARE RINGING!

WELL, IT'S GONE FAR ENOUGH! I'M THINKING OF DOING SOMETHING DRASTIC ABOUT IT!

WALLY WAKEFUL'S... GOTHAM GOSSIP...

Memo to Batman: The underworld grapevine bears a juicy report that well-heeled crooks carry 'hunting' licenses issued by you! Care to deny it... with proof?

CALLING IN THOSE SECRET IDENTIFICATION DISCS, THAT PROTECT MY UNDERCOVER SQUAD FROM ARREST WHILE THEY'RE HUNTING MR. CIPHER, WOULD SAVE YOU EMBARRASSMENT!

WHAT?! JEOPARDIZE OUR WHOLE CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF FOOLISH GOSSIP? FORGET IT! NOTHING'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN CATCHING MR. CIPHER... THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL IN AMERICA!

WHO IS MR. CIPHER? WHY IS HE AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL? TO LEARN THE ANSWER, WE MUST TURN THE CALENDAR BACK ABOUT SIX WEEKS, TO THE FIRST HINT OF HIS EXISTENCE...

NO, BATMAN... NOBODY'S SEEN BIG ED VAKERS! I'VE BEEN ASKING, BECAUSE THESE LATEST SAFE ROBBERIES LOOK LIKE HIS WORK!

A LOT OF BADLY-WANTED CROOKS HAVE SUDDENLY DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT, CASSIDY... BUT THEIR TRADEMARKS ARE SHOWING UP IN MORE CRIMES THAN EVER!

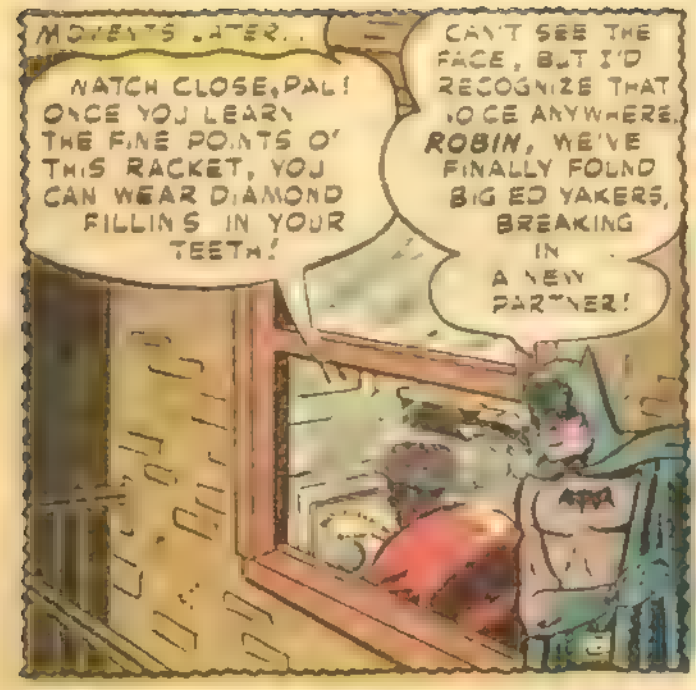
THE CRIMINAL POPULATION ISN'T SHRINKING! FOR EVERY MISSING ROGUE'S GALLERY MUG, A NEW FACE, JUST AS UGLY, SEEMS TO POP UP! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

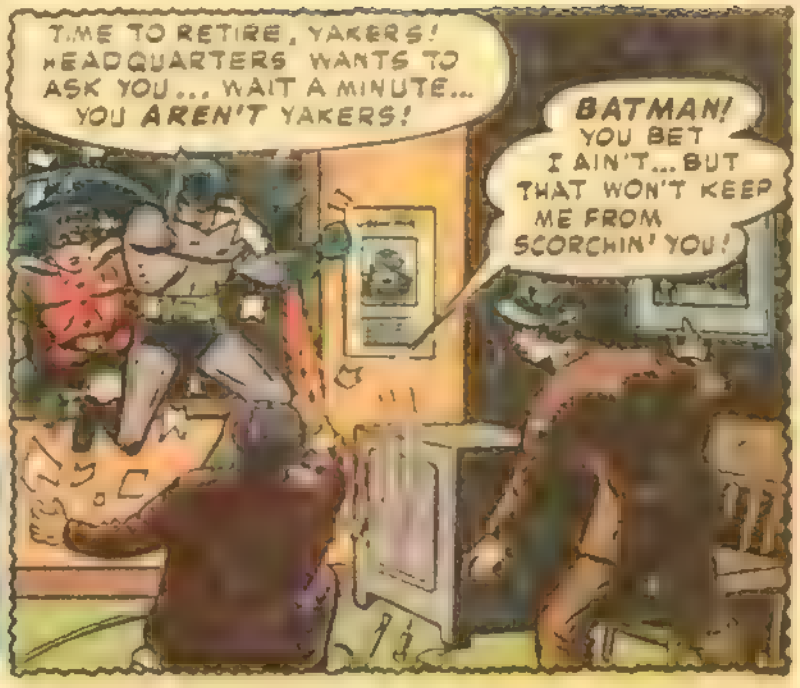
IT COULD MEAN SOME ONE'S INVENTED A TERRIFIC NEW DODGE TO CHEAT THE LAW, ROBIN! BUT GUESSING'S NO GOOD... WE'VE GOT TO KNOW!

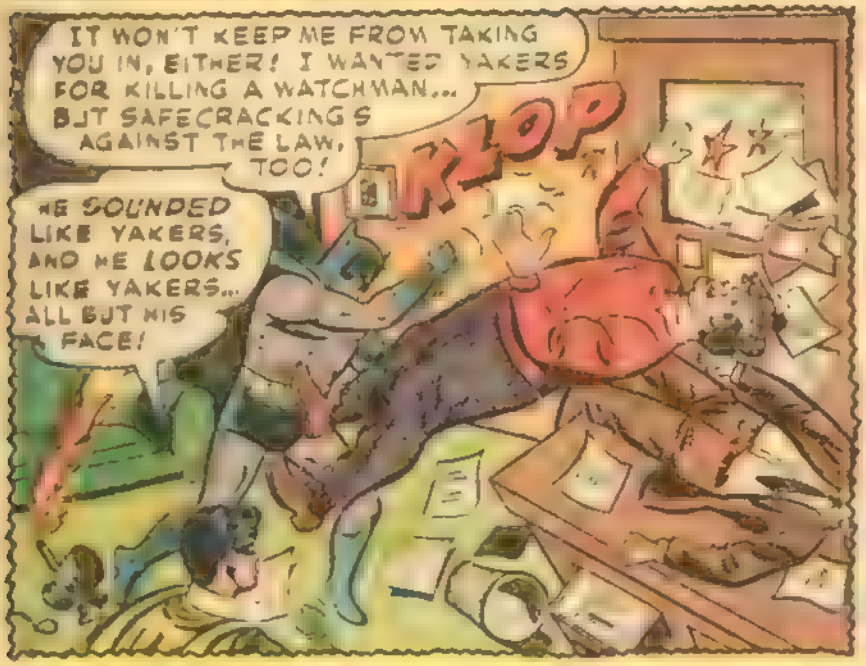
THEN, ONE NIGHT, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO PROWLED THE STREETS WATCHFULLY...

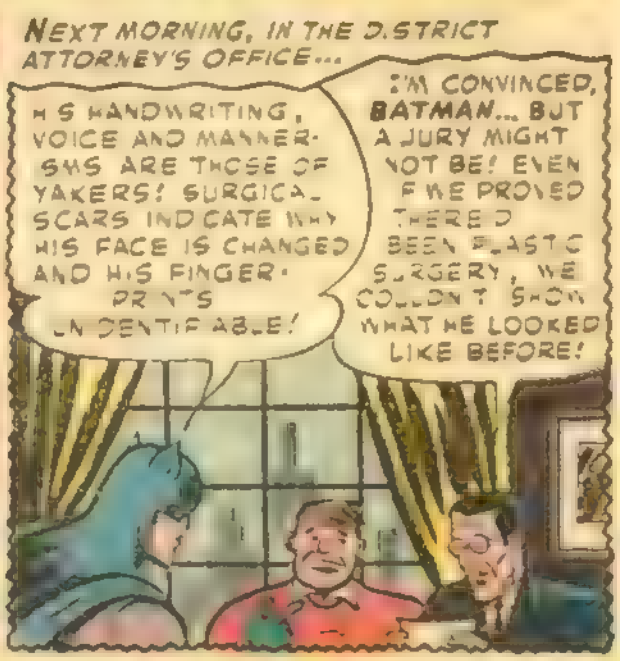
LOOK, BATMAN... TWO YEGGS WITH AN ACETYLENE TORCH... TRYING TO LOOT THAT SAFE!

SHH.. WE'LL JUMP TO THAT FIRE ESCAPE AND TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE!


MOMENTS LATER...
WATCH CLOSE, PAL! ONCE YOU LEARN THE FINE POINTS O' THIS RACKET, YOU CAN WEAR DIAMOND FILLINGS IN YOUR TEETH!
CAN'T SEE THE FACE, BUT I'D RECOGNIZE THAT MOCE ANYWHERE. ROBIN, WE'VE FINALLY FOUND BIG ED YAKERS, BREAKING IN A NEW PARTNER!

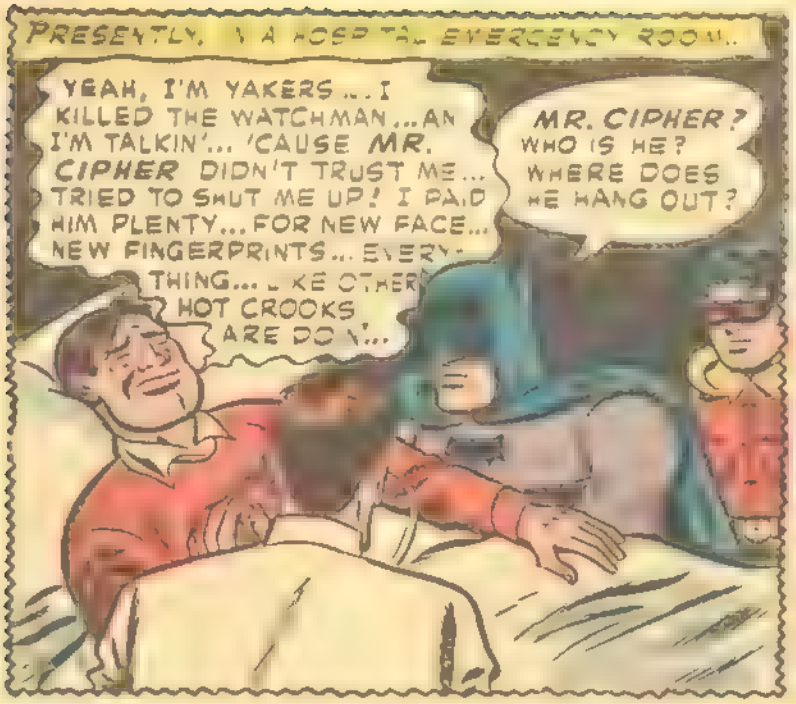

TIME TO RETIRE, YAKERS! HEADQUARTERS WANTS TO ASK YOU... WAIT A MINUTE... YOU AREN'T YAKERS!
BATMAN! YOU BET I AIN'T... BUT THAT WON'T KEEP ME FROM SCORCHIN' YOU!


IT WON'T KEEP ME FROM TAKING YOU IN, EITHER! I WANTED YAKERS FOR KILLING A WATCHMAN... BUT SAFECRACKING'S AGAINST THE LAW, TOO!
HE SOUNDED LIKE YAKERS, AND HE LOOKS LIKE YAKERS... ALL BUT HIS FACE!
KLOP

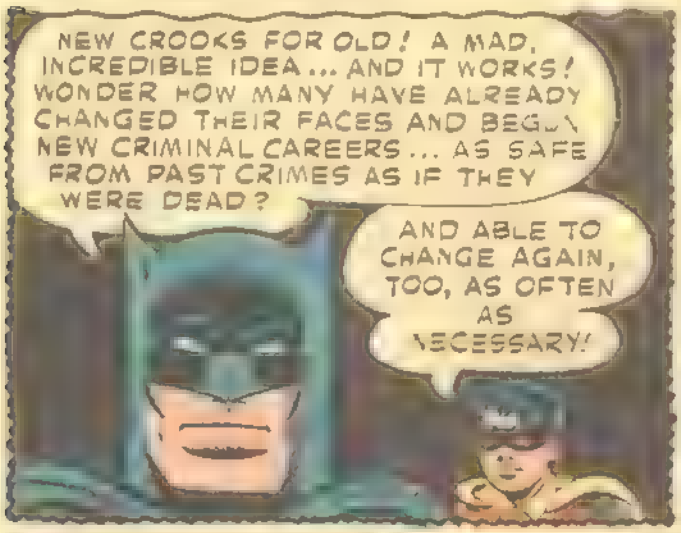

NEXT MORNING, IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE...
HIS HANDWRITING, VOICE AND MANNERISMS ARE THOSE OF YAKERS! SURGICAL SCARS INDICATE WHY HIS FACE IS CHANGED AND HIS FINGERPRINTS UNIDENTIFIABLE!
I'M CONVINCED, BATMAN... BUT A JURY MIGHT NOT BE! EVEN IF WE PROVED THERE'D BEEN PLASTIC SURGERY, WE COULDN'T SHOW WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE BEFORE!

IF WE TRIED HIM FOR MURDER, AS YAKERS, HE'D BEAT THE CASE! OUR BEST BET IS TO CHARGE HIM WITH BURGLARY, AS JOHN NEWMAN, THE NAME HE USES NOW!
HAW! THAT MEANS I CAN GET BAIL!

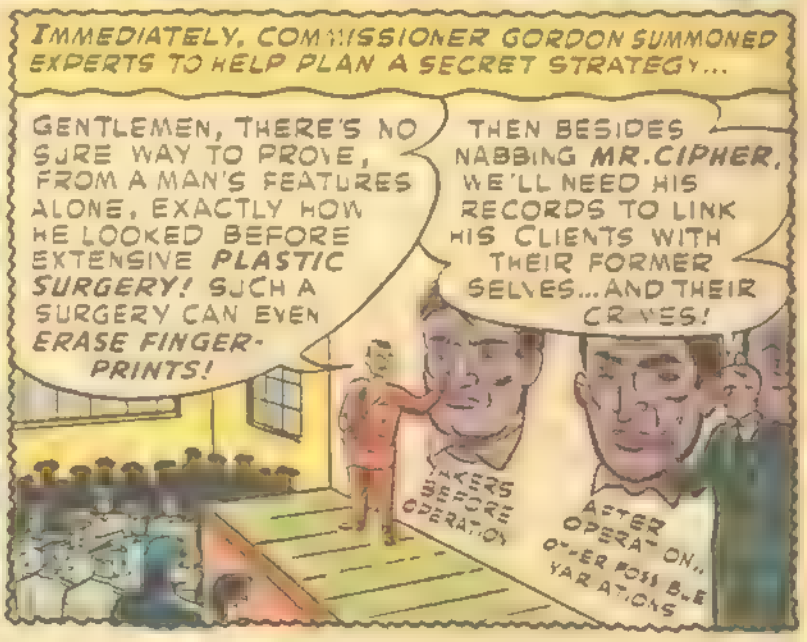
BUT THAT AFTERNOON, AS NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED THE LAW'S STRANGE DILEMMA, AND THE REVAMPED CROOK WAS FREED UNDER BOND...
MR. CIPHER! NO... DON'T!
TAT... RAT... TAT
RAT-TAT-TAT
GREAT SCOTT... THAT FACE!


PRESENTLY, IN A HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM...
YEAH, I'M YAKERS ... I KILLED THE WATCHMAN ... AN I'M TALKIN'... 'CAUSE MR. CIPHER DIDN'T TRUST ME... TRIED TO SHUT ME UP! I PAID HIM PLENTY... FOR NEW FACE... NEW FINGERPRINTS... EVERY-THING... LIKE OTHER HOT CROOKS ARE DOIN'...
MR. CIPHER? WHO IS HE? WHERE DOES HE HANG OUT?

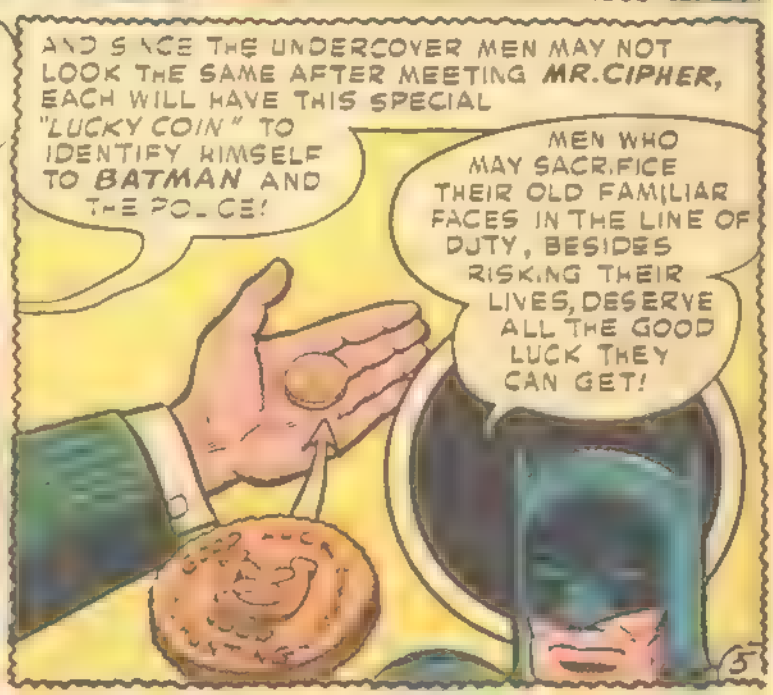
AND THAT WAS HOW **BATMAN** FIRST HEARD OF **MR. CIPHER**, AND OF A MASTER PLOT TO BEAT THE LAW...


NEW CROOKS FOR OLD! A MAD, INCREDIBLE IDEA... AND IT WORKS! WONDER HOW MANY HAVE ALREADY CHANGED THEIR FACES AND BEGUN NEW CRIMINAL CAREERS... AS SAFE FROM PAST CRIMES AS IF THEY WERE DEAD?
AND ABLE TO CHANGE AGAIN, TOO, AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY!

IMMEDIATELY, COMMISSIONER GORDON SUMMONED EXPERTS TO HELP PLAN A SECRET STRATEGY...


GENTLEMEN, THERE'S NO SURE WAY TO PROVE, FROM A MAN'S FEATURES ALONE, EXACTLY HOW HE LOOKED BEFORE EXTENSIVE PLASTIC SURGERY! SUCH A SURGERY CAN EVEN ERASE FINGER-PRINTS!
THEN BESIDES NABBING MR. CIPHER, WE'LL NEED HIS RECORDS TO LINK HIS CLIENTS WITH THEIR FORMER SELVES... AND THEIR CRIMES!
YAKERS BEFORE OPERATION
AFTER OPERATION, OTHER POSSIBLE VARIATIONS

ORDINARY POLICE METHODS ARE OUT, COMMISSIONER! ONCE MR. CIPHER KNOWS WE'RE WISE, THERE'LL BE NO RECORDS TO FIND!
I KNOW, INSPECTOR! I'M COUNTING ON BATMAN... AND TEN PICKED UNDER-COVER AGENTS, TRAINED TO MASQUERADE AS FUGITIVE CROOKS!


AND SINCE THE UNDERCOVER MEN MAY NOT LOOK THE SAME AFTER MEETING MR. CIPHER, EACH WILL HAVE THIS SPECIAL "LUCKY COIN" TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF TO BATMAN AND THE POLICE!
MEN WHO MAY SACRIFICE THEIR OLD FAMILIAR FACES IN THE LINE OF DUTY, BESIDES RISKING THEIR LIVES, DESERVE ALL THE GOOD LUCK THEY CAN GET!

ALL THIS WAS WEEKS AGO... BUT TODAY, THE BATTLE IS FAR FROM FINISHED
BELIEVE ME, BATMAN, I'M GLAD YOU'RE STICKING! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE FED UP WITH GETTING NO RESULTS EXCEPT A BAD NAME!
WE ARE COMMISSIONER ... BUT IF WE CAN MAKE SENSE OUT OF THE FEW CLUES WE HAVE, AND UNEARTHED MR. CIPHER'S "TRANSFORMATION MILL," IT'LL BE WORTH ANY AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY GRIEF!
LATER, IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE, EAGLE CLUES ARE STUDIED PAINSTAKINGLY.
EACH OF THE UNDERCOVER MEN WHO WAS TAKEN BLINDFOLDED TO MR. CIPHER'S PLACE REPORTED BUMPY STREETS, RAILROAD NOISES, AND A BIG CLOCK CHIMING NEARBY!
THIS MAP SHOWS AREAS WHERE OLD PAVEMENTS, TRAINS AND CLOCKS ARE CLOSE TOGETHER! TROUBLE IS, THEY COVER HALF OF GOTHAM CITY!
MAP of GOTHAM CITY
THE ONLY OTHER CLUE... A SMELL OF LILACS... IS EVEN TOUGHER! LILACS ARE SCARCE INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS!
THEY'RE ALSO OUT OF SEASON! BUT A SPECIAL CHEMICAL, CALLED TERPINEOL, HAS THE SAME ODOR, AND IS USED TO MAKE A LOT OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS SMELL BETTER! HERE'S A LIST OF SOME OF THEM!
SOAPS ... COSMETICS .. SOME PLASTIC AND PAPIER MACHÉ ARTICLES.. GLUE ... GUMMED LABELS... WHY, HUNDREDS OF BUSINESSES MAKE, USE OR SELL THOSE THINGS!
THOUSANDS, ROBIN... BUT WE CAN SKIP MOST OF THEM! YOU CARRY ON THE RESEARCH WHILE I INVESTIGATE A FEW LIKELY ONES AND TRY TO AVOID FURTHER BAD LUCK WITH GOOD-LUCK COINS!
SPEAKING OF THE COINS . ONE OF THEM HAS ALREADY BACKFIRED! FOR AT THAT MOMENT, IN MR. CIPHER'S HIDEOUT...
I'VE HEARD THE TALK, JOE! ALSO, I REALIZE UNDERCOVER COPS MIGHT CARRY SOME SUCH IDENTIFICATION! PUT JOE ON ICE, BOYS, TILL I MAKE UP MY MIND ABOUT HIM!
SURE, MR. CIPHER, I USED IT TO MAKE BATMAN LAY OFF! COST ME PLENTY, TOO! AIN'T YOU HEARD?... BATMAN'S WILLIN' TO BE FRIENDLY, IF YOU GOT THE PRICE!
AFTERWARD...
GEE, MR. CIPHER... IF JOE'S A STOOLIE, THERE MUST BE OTHERS!
RIGHT, PINK... AND WE'LL GET THEM ALL! MEANWHILE, SINCE THIS COIN MEANS SOMETHING TO BATMAN, IT MIGHT BE JUST THE GIMMICK THAT CAN TRAP HIM!
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AND SO, LATER, AS BATMAN INSPECTS POSSIBLE HIDEOUTS ...
I'LL SCRATCH THIS ONE OFF MY LIST, AND... OH, OH... HIT-AND-RUN THIEVES SMASHING A JEWELRY SHOP WINDOW!
CRASH
JELRY
INSTANTLY...
BATMAN!
GUYS LIKE YOU MAKE RAT-CATCHING EASY! PLAIN CRIMINAL CARELESSNESS, I SUPPOSE!
BUT JUST THEN...
PSST! GOT TO SEE YOU ALONE! HOW ABOUT BRIDGE AND CROSS STREETS IN HALF AN HOUR?
ANOTHER COIN? SURE... I'LL BE THERE! START RUNNING, BEFORE WITNESSES SHOW UP TO MAKE MY REPUTATION WORSE THAN IT ALREADY IS!
SOON AFTER, AS BATMAN APPROACHES THE MEETING SPOT...
BANG! BANG!
WELL! ONE OF THE PLACES I WANTED TO LOOK AT IS JUST AHEAD! SETTING'S RIGHT, TOO... OLD COBBLESTONE PAVING, RAILROAD SPUR, AND CLOCK TOWER!
RAILROAD CROSSING
EXACTLY WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR... AN OFFTRAIL SPOT WHERE ALL SORTS OF FANTASTIC OPERATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT EXCITING SUSPICION! THAT UNDERCOVER MAN MUST HAVE FOUND THE END OF THE TRAIL JUST AHEAD OF ME!
MASQUERADE, INC.
Dramatic Designer
SUDDENLY...
OKAY, CHUMP... FREEZE! AN DON'T COUNT ON BUYIN' YOUR WAY OUT WITH NO STOOL PIGEON'S LUCKY COIN EITHER! BLINDFOLD HIM, MARTY!
WH-WHAT..? SEEMS I WAS ONLY HALF RIGHT IN WHAT I WAS THINKING!

BOUND AND BLINDFOLDED, LED THROUGH A MAZE OF PASSAGES, THE CAPED LAWMAN FACES HIS FOE AT LAST!
THANKS FOR SURRENDERING PEACEFULLY, BATMAN! NOW YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT POLICE SPIES CARRY THESE COIN BADGES IN THE UNDERWORLD!
SO YOU'RE MR. CIPHER, AND THIS IS WHERE YOU DO YOUR DIRTY WORK! I WOULDN'T THINK OF HELPING IT ALONG BY TELLING YOU ANYTHING ... EVEN IF I KNEW!
NOT CO-OPERATIVE, EH? PERHAPS IF I CAN GET ROBIN HERE, WITH THE AID OF YOUR BELT RADIO, YOU'LL RECONSIDER! ROBIN! CALLING ROBIN!
CAN'T LET ROBIN BE TRAPPED, TOO! BESIDES, SOMEONE HAS TO WARN THE UNDERCOVER MEN THAT MR. CIPHER'S AFTER THEM!
AND IN THE BAT-CAVE...
ALL OF A SUDDEN, A FAMILIAR VOICE CUTS IN, AND...
MY BELT RADIO! BUT THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE BATMAN!
WHO'S CALLING?
... ROBIN, THIS IS MR. CIPHER! I'VE CAPTURED BATMAN! YOU CAN SAVE HIS LIFE BY BEING AT BRIDGE AND CROSS STREETS ... ALONE ... WITHIN HALF AN HOUR!
SIGNAL ZERO, ROBIN! HURRY! AND DON'T COME HERE! MR. CIPHER WILL ONLY... ...UH-H-H... WHOP... ...THAT'LL SHUT HIM UP!
BATMAN! WHERE...?
THEY SLUGGED HIM! BUT HIS MESSAGE... SIGNAL ZERO... MEANS THE UNDERCOVER MEN ARE IN DANGER!
WHAT CAN I DO? BATMAN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE... BUT I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT SIGNAL ZERO IS BROADCAST FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE IMMEDIATELY! I... I'D BETTER NOT EVEN LISTEN TO ANYTHING ELSE!
... SPEAK UP, ROBIN! DON'T YOU CARE WHETHER BATMAN LIVES OR...
CLICK!
AND AT MR. CIPHER'S HIDEOUT...
NO ANSWER! HE MAY COME... BUT... BUT I WISH WE'D SLUGGED BATMAN BEFORE HE MENTIONED SIGNAL ZERO, WHATEVER THAT MEANS! PINK, YOU WATCH FOR ROBIN! MARTY, WARN ALL MOB LEADERS ABOUT SPIES! TELL THEM TO RUB OUT EVERYBODY... EVERYBODY... WHO HAS ONE OF THOSE LUCKY COINS!
OKAY, CIPHER!

MEANWHILE, AT HEADQUARTERS...
SIGNAL ZERO! BATMAN SAYS HURRY, COMMISSIONER! HE'S A PRISONER... MR. CIPHER MUST KNOW ABOUT THE UNDERCOVER MEN!
EH? GREAT SCOTT! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE BATMAN... AND MY AGENTS IN THE UNDERWORLD!
MOMENTS LATER, ELECTRONIC TUBES HUM WITH POWER, SENDING AN URGENT WARNING TO OPERATIVES ALL OVER THE CITY...
EVERYONE OF THE GOOD-LUCK COINS SHOULD BE BUZZING NOW... LIKE THIS ONE... BECAUSE OF THE TINY RECEIVER INSIDE IT!
WE CAN'T DO ANY MORE! NOW, WHAT ABOUT BATMAN? DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS? SHALL I SEND RAIDERS TO RIP THE UNDERWORLD APART?
BZZZZ
DON'T DO ANYTHING! I'M TO GO TO A CERTAIN PLACE... ALONE! IT'S A TRAP, BUT MAYBE I CAN LOCATE BATMAN... IF HE'S STILL ALIVE... WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT! ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO TRY!
I UNDERSTAND! BE CAREFUL, ROBIN! IF YOU FIND HIM, FLASH ME... I'LL HAVE A SPECIAL FLYING SQUAD READY TO SEND WHEREVER YOU SAY!
AND AS THE ELECTRIC IMPULSES BLANKET GOTHAM CITY...
BAR
SIGNAL ZERO! WONDER WHAT'S... OH, OH... THERE'S BEEN A TIP-OFF! GOT TO KEEP MOVING... FAST!
LINE UP, BOYS... WE GOT STOOLIES! EVERYBODY GETS SEARCHED!
BZZZZZZZ
IN A POOLROOM, WHEN MR. CIPHER'S ORDERS ARE RECEIVED.
JUST A FRIENDLY ONCE-OVER, MEN! ANYBODY THAT AIN'T GOT A GOOD-LUCK COIN IN HIS POCKET DON'T NEED TO WORRY!
THAT'S NO COMFORT TO ME!... MUST THINK FAST!
WHAT ABOUT NICK AN' SMOKY, UPSTAIRS? THEY BEEN ACTIN' MYSTERIOUS LATELY!
BZZZ BZZZ
THEY HAVE, HUH? GET 'EM LEFTY... BUT DON'T TELL 'EM WHAT'S UP!
I'LL SEND 'EM RIGHT DOWN!
THEN I'LL GO RIGHT OUT THE SIDE WINDOW AND START TRAVELING!
BZZZZZZZ
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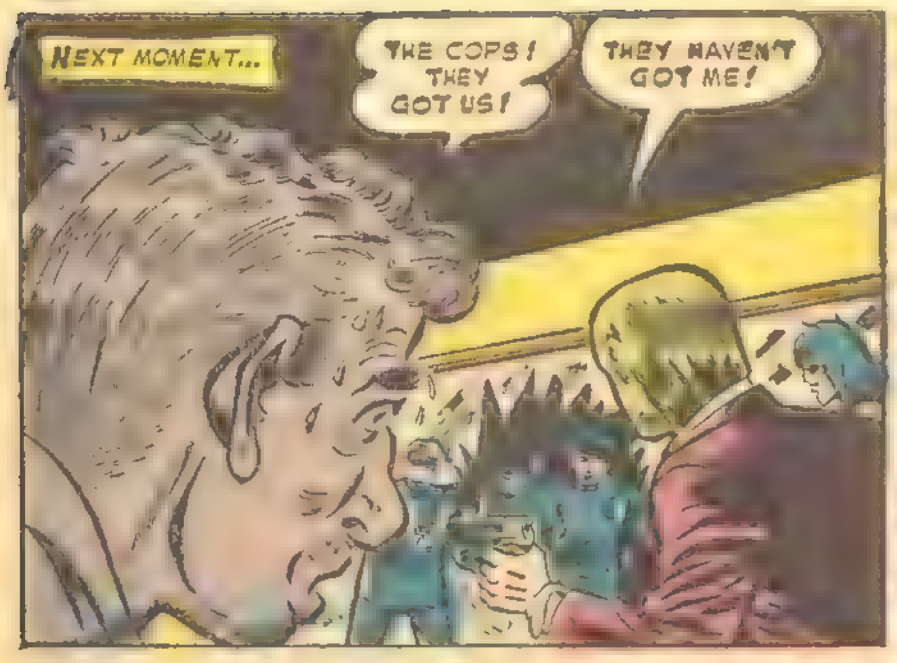
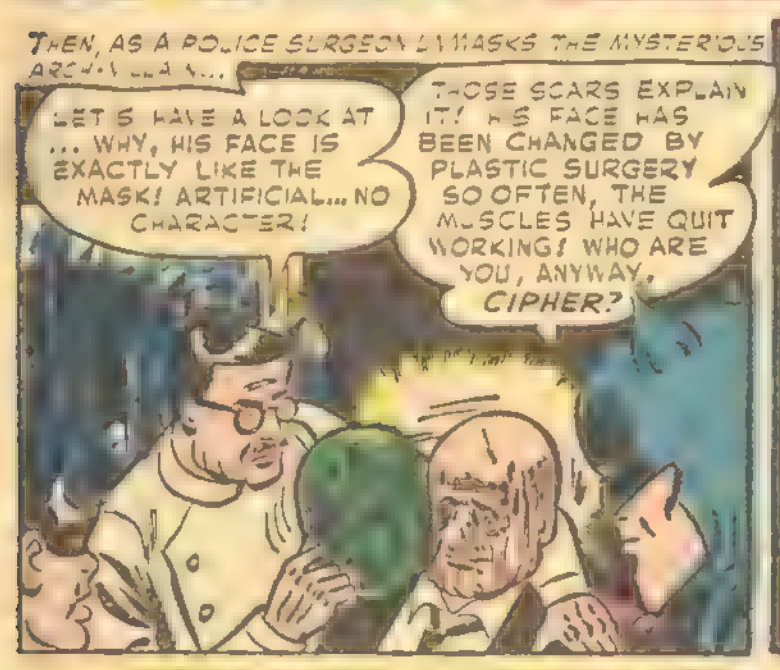
MEANWHILE, AS ROBIN REACHES THE FATAL MEETING PLACE..
THERE'S MY RECEPTION COMMITTEE! ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH AND FOLLOW THEM! BUT... THOSE MASKS IN THE WINDOW.. THEY'RE MADE OF PAPIER MACHÉ, WHICH HAS A GLUEY SMELL TILL IT'S SPRAYED WITH TERPINEOL TO GIVE IT THE ODOR OF... LILACS!
IT MUST BE MR. CIPHER'S HIDEOUT! BATMAN MUST HAVE BEEN CAUGHT WHEN HE SPOTTED IT FROM THE CLUES HE MENTIONED TO ME! I'LL CALL THE POLICE... BUT I'LL TRY TO GET IN AHEAD OF THEM, IN CASE BATMAN'S STILL ALIVE!
WHILE INSIDE THE HIDEOUT..
THE SPY HUNT SHOULD HAVE STARTED BY NOW, BATMAN! THESE COINS WILL EXPOSE MOST OF YOUR SNOOPER PALS, WHETHER OR NOT ROBIN SHOWS UP!
IF ROBIN GOT MY MESSAGE, SIGNAL ZERO SHOULD BE ON THE AIR ANY SECOND! HOPE IT STARTLES THESE TWO LONG ENOUGH TO THROW THEM OFF GUARD!
NEXT INSTANT..
GREAT SCOTT... THE WARNING SOUND FROM THE COIN! LOOK OUT, CIPHER... IT'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE!
HUH?
ZZZZZZ
BZZZ
AND IN THE SPLIT-SECOND CONFUSION, THE "EXPLOSION" COMES... AS THE LAWMAN'S MIGHTY MUSCLES UNCOIL LIKE TENSED STEEL SPRINGS!
A BIG EXPLOSION... LIKE THIS!
OOOF
AGHHHHHH!
SECONDS LATER, IN AN ADJOINING ROOM...
WOT'S 'APPENIN'? SO 'ELP ME, THIS PLYCE IS LIKE A BALLY MAD 'OUSE!
THE HOSPITAL WARD... AND A PATIENT! SOUNDS LIKE PICADILLY PETE, THE STRANGLER, GETTING A NEW FACE... BUT KEEPING THE SAME OLD ACCENT! LET'S TAKE A RIDE, PETE!
BANG

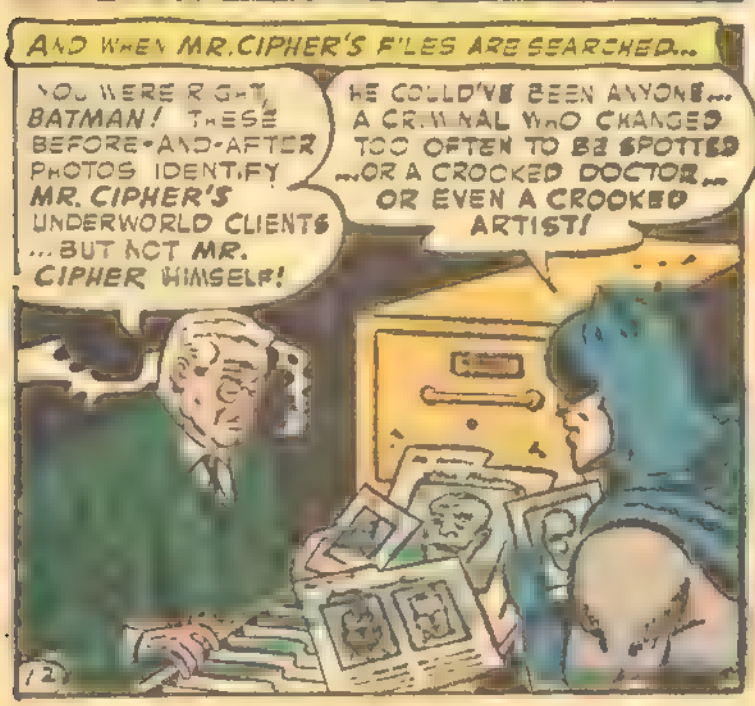
IS IT THE BOBBIES? OO ARE YOU, H ANYWAY?
ONLY BATMAN! KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN PETE, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE TO SEE THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! MAYBE THIS CABINET WILL SLOW THEM UP A LITTLE!
BANG! BANG!
AND WHEN THEY REACH THE CLUTTERED SHOP THAT CONCEALS MR. CIPHER'S REAL BUSINESS...
DON'T LET HIM GET OUT, OR WE'RE FINISHED!
BASH!
MORE HENCHMEN MUST BE GETTING INTO THE ACT! GO BACK AND BLOCK THEM ON, PETE! SOUNDS LIKE THE FRONT WINDOW SMASHING TOO... WONDER IF A BULLET HIT IT, OR...?
BANG BANG BANG BANG
GET HIM ... HE'S BEHIND THAT MASK!
THE MASK .. IT'S MOVING! WHY, IT MUST BE...
BATMAN! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALIVE! WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED, TWO CHARACTERS WATCHING FOR ME HEADED FOR A SIDE DOOR... AND I HEAVED A BRICK THROUGH THE WINDOW!
ROBIN!
CRASH!
Y!-!-!-!-!
THEY STOLE A MARCH ON ME, LURING ME HERE! IF THEY'D WAITED AN HOUR, I'D HAVE CAUGHT MR. CIPHER, INSTEAD OF GETTING CAUGHT MYSELF!
STAND STILL! YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH HIM ANYWAY, SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
AND ONCE AGAIN, THE DYNAMIC DUO WAGES A FREE-SWINGING BATTLE AGAINST DOUBLE ODDS...
FEELS GOOD TO STRETCH MY ARMS AGAIN... OR DON'T YOU THINK SO, PAL?
RELAX, CHUM, AND THIS'LL BE EASIER FOR BOTH OF US!
11

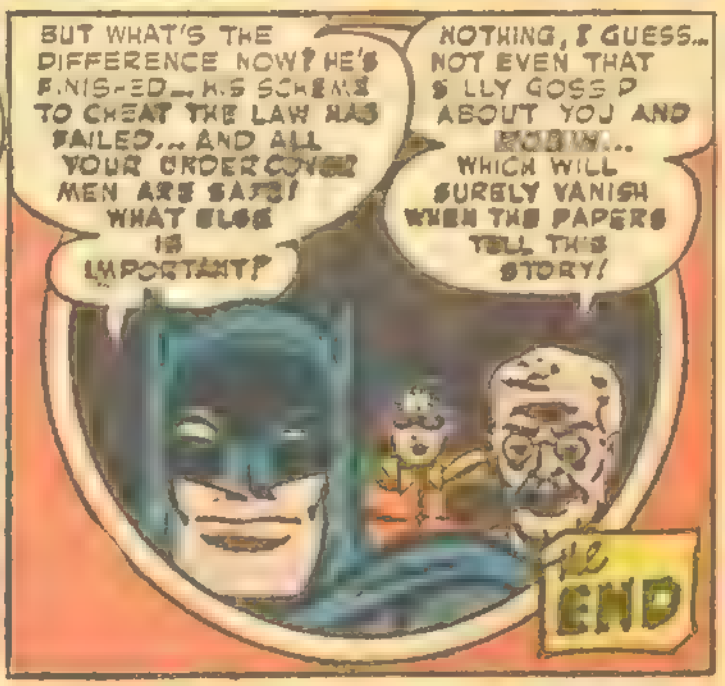

NEXT MOMENT...
THE COPS! THEY GOT US!
THEY HAVEN'T GOT ME!

YOU'LL NEVER... UH-H-H-H!
I WARNED YOU!
BANG


THEN, AS A POLICE SURGEON UNMASKS THE MYSTERIOUS ARCH-VILLAIN...
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT ... WHY, HIS FACE IS EXACTLY LIKE THE MASK! ARTIFICIAL... NO CHARACTER!
THOSE SCARS EXPLAIN IT! HIS FACE HAS BEEN CHANGED BY PLASTIC SURGERY SO OFTEN, THE MUSCLES HAVE QUIT WORKING! WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY, CIPHER?

TOO LATE, BATMAN... YOU'LL... NEVER... KNOW...
HE'S DEAD!
AND SOMETHING TELLS ME WE NEVER WILL KNOW! HE HAD NO FINGERPRINTS OR OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS... AND WHATEVER RECORDS HE KEPT, YOU CAN BET HE WASN'T LISTED IN THEM!


AND WHEN MR. CIPHER'S FILES ARE SEARCHED...
YOU WERE RIGHT, BATMAN! THESE BEFORE-AND-AFTER PHOTOS IDENTIFY MR. CIPHER'S UNDERWORLD CLIENTS ... BUT NOT MR. CIPHER HIMSELF!
HE COULD'VE BEEN ANYONE... A CRIMINAL WHO CHANGED TOO OFTEN TO BE SPOTTED ...OR A CROOKED DOCTOR... OR EVEN A CROOKED ARTIST!
12


BUT WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE NOW? HE'S RUINED... HIS SCHEME TO CHEAT THE LAW HAS FAILED... AND ALL YOUR UNDERCOVER MEN ARE SAFE! WHAT ELSE IS IMPORTANT?
NOTHING, I GUESS... NOT EVEN THAT SILLY GOSSIP ABOUT YOU AND ROBIN... WHICH WILL SURELY VANISH WHEN THE PAPERS TELL THIS STORY!
THE END

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QUICK QUIZ

IS IT POSSIBLE TO **DESTROY** MATTER?

SCIENTISTS AGREE THAT MATTER MAY BE CHANGED, RE-ARRANGED, ADAPTED IN MANY WAYS....BUT, IT CAN NEITHER BE DESTROYED NOR CREATED!

WHICH IS THE *HUNGRIEST* OF ALL ANIMALS?

THE SHORT-TAIL SHREW! IT EATS EVERY FEW MINUTES, IN FEAR OF PERISHING OF STARVATION!

DO FISH **SLEEP?**

NO! FISH DO *NOT* SLEEP! SOMETIMES THEY REMAIN QUIET IN STREAMS...BUT ALWAYS *AWAKE!*

WAS "CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS" THE FAMOUS EXPLORER'S TRUE NAME?

NO! HIS REAL NAME WAS "CRISTOBAL COLON" AND HE SIGNED IT NO OTHER WAY!

H.T. ELMO

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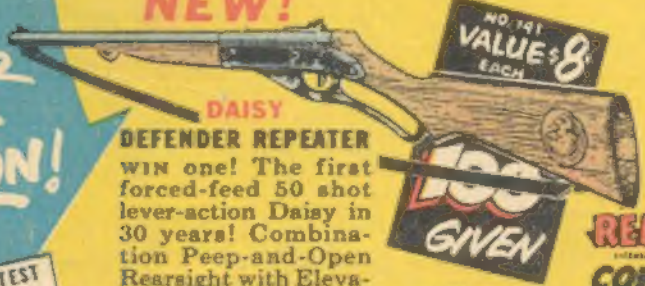
You don't even have to own a Daisy to win one of the 4 Free Trips to Red Ryder's Ranch or one of the 257 air rifles, trophy cups and medals—to be given as prizes in the thrilling DAISY SHOOTIN' CONTEST starting March 15, 1952, ending May 29, 1952. Just borrow a Daisy from a friend! Prizes to be awarded on the combined basis of best targets and aptest completions of Contest Sentence. There'll be TWO separate Divisions! NRA MEMBER'S DIVISION: shooters in this group will win the most VALUABLE PRIZES such as the 4 Red Ryder Ranch Trips, 100 Daisy Defenders, 50 Daisy Pump Guns, 50 Daisy Red Ryder Carbines, Trophy Cups, Medals *provided that* they are paid-up Junior Members of NRA for 1952 *OR* if they send in APPLICATION FORM and 50-cent membership Fee WITH their Contest Targets *before midnight May 29, 1952!* NON-NRA DIVISION: If you don't join NRA, you can shoot to win one of the 3 Daisy Defenders or one of the 50 Daisy Air Rifles (No. 155). Get ALL CONTEST FACTS NOW! Ask your Daisy Dealer—or mail coupon for FREE CONTEST KIT—and start shootin' to WIN!

CONTEST RULES · CONTEST GETS · CONTEST ENTRY BLANK · CONTEST TARGETS · APPLICATION FOR NRA JUNIOR

NEW!



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